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Delegations will find enclosed the a Report, by the Danish Presidency, on National burden reduction initiatives.



EU Member States' BURDEN REDUCTION INITIATIVES



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Preface

In recent years, the reduction of administrative and regulatory burdens on businesses has moved to the forefront of the policy agenda across the EU. The primary aim of this report is to inspire, enhance transparency, and support the ongoing exchanges of best practices on burden reduction among Member States.

This report compiles Member States' approaches and measures to burden reduction, based exclusively on responses to a structured questionnaire distributed to Member States in November 2025 (see Annex 2). Responses from Member States have been included directly in the report with only minor editorial modifications for readability. Where a Member State has not provided input on a particular question, this has been omitted from its country section to retain clarity and coherence.

The report offers a comprehensive overview of existing burden reduction initiatives, approaches to quantification of business economic costs, methodologies and tools used as well as mechanisms to prevent over-implementation ("gold-plating") of EU law. The structure is designed to enable easy comparison and practical learning, without assessments or analysis of the effectiveness of individual initiatives. Readers will find:

- 1) Summaries of current burden reduction initiatives, organised thematically for cross-country comparison
- 2) A table highlighting focus areas of each Member State related to measuring burdens
- 3) Detailed country profiles presenting the full responses from each Member State.

We would like to thank the many national experts and delegates who contributed to this report. Their input and openness are essential to the ongoing improvement of regulatory practices and the promotion of smarter regulation across Europe.

Thank you for reading.

Summary tables

To aid navigation and facilitate comparison across Member States' initiatives, the summary tables are organised by thematic categories identified across EU Member States. Each table lists the countries involved in specific initiatives, along with concrete examples to highlight the diversity and scope of approaches taken. It should be noted that the tables are based solely on responses to the questionnaire and may not be exhaustive.

Please note that all categorisations and groupings presented in this report have been made by the editors and should be considered indicative rather than definitive classifications. The purpose is to provide a clear and comparable overview of national approaches. However, individual countries may classify, group, or describe their initiatives differently, and interpretations of the scope and nature of certain measures may vary. For more detailed information on each initiative, readers are encouraged to consult the relevant country profiles.

Table presenting the largest categories of burden reduction initiatives across EU Member States

Category	Countries	Examples of initiatives
Strategic programs/plans	Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden	Multiannual strategies and action plans to reduce burdens for businesses
Principles for law-making	Finland, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Spain	One-in, One-out principle
Dedicated committees/groups/offices for burden reductions	Austria, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, The Netherlands, Sweden	Central offices, groups of Ministers, Simplification Council
Stakeholder involvement	Austria, Cyprus, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Spain	Consultation platform, cooperation with business organisations
Digital platforms	Cyprus, Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Portugal, Romania, Sweden	One-stop-shops, single entry-points
Digitalisation and automation of administrative procedures	Bulgaria, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden	Digital reporting, automatisisation of administrative processes

Burden reduction initiatives

The editors have defined nine overarching thematic categories to encompass all national burden reduction initiatives. Brief descriptions of each category are provided below.

Strategic programs/plans

This category includes national, often multi-annual strategies or action plans - frequently spanning several ministries and sectors – that set the direction and coordinate efforts for regulatory simplification, burden reduction, and modernization. These can be wide in scope or specifically focused within some policy areas.

Country	Initiative	Information
Bulgaria	Administrative Burden Reduction Plan	A national plan with 235 concrete actions to minimize administrative burdens for both businesses and citizens.
	Concept for the Development of Regulatory Policy 2025–2027	A strategic framework for regulatory policy focusing on reducing regulatory and administrative costs for businesses and citizens, e.g., by setting out horizontal measures to improve law-making.
Croatia	Several action plans since 2018 focused on reducing administrative burdens for businesses and citizens	Several action plans focused on simplifying regulations, optimizing procedures, and reducing administrative costs to improve competitiveness and the business climate.
Czech Republic	“Anti-bureaucratic packages”	Several packages targeting the removal of unnecessary administrative obligations for businesses, citizens and public institutions.
Finland	Removing at least 300 regulatory norms bothering citizens or business	Government goal to continuously remove unnecessary requirements and rules.
France	Simplification bill (among others)	Several initiatives aimed at reducing administrative burdens on businesses. The Simplification Bill includes measures to streamline administrative procedures, reinforce "Only Once", and the establishment of a one-stop-shop for business formalities. The bill will also introduce an SME Test to assess impacts on smaller companies.

Germany	State modernisation reform	National effort to modernise the state and public administration, focusing on streamlining processes and reducing burdens.
	Reduction of staff in administrations	Objective to reduce administrative overhead in ministries and federal agencies by at least eight percent by 2029.
Greece	National Program for Simplification Procedures	Public sector administrative procedures are selected for evaluation, simplification, and digitalisation.
Ireland	Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity	A key focus of the Action Plan is improving Ireland’s regulatory environment under the theme “Regulating for Growth and Controlling Costs.”
	Red Tape Challenge	Part of the Action Plan. National initiative to review existing rules and identify regulations to be removed or reduced as well as to gather feedback from citizens and businesses on burdens.
Italy	Simplification agenda 2020-2026	Strategic program to eliminate administrative bottlenecks and unnecessary procedures.
	Permanent national burden reduction program	Ongoing, structured burden measurement and reduction for citizens and businesses, stakeholder consultations, and regulatory corrections. Results feed into an Annual Report.
Latvia	Bureaucracy Reduction Action Plan	A 2025 plan with concrete steps to simplify processes for businesses and citizens, (21 measures).
Lithuania	Sectoral Regulatory Burden Reduction Plan	Targeted plans in selected sectors to identify and remove main regulatory burdens.
	2025 Action Plan for Reducing Compliance Costs	Plan mandating 37 measures by the end of the year (2025) to cut compliance costs.
	Burden reduction plans in several areas	All ministries are required to identify the 2–4 largest sources of regulatory burden within their respective fields and to approve action plans providing for at least a 30% reduction of these sources of burdens by the end of 2025.
Luxembourg	Procedural streamlining to enhance competitiveness and reduce economic costs	Several measures, including a unified and streamlined business creation process, consolidating procedures into a single process as well as implementation of the Once-Only principle.

The Netherlands	Action Programme (Less Pressure from Rules)	A multi-annual government programme to systematically reduce unnecessary regulatory and administrative burdens on businesses. Under this programme, the government aims to remove or simplify before the summer of 2026 at least 500 concrete rules.
Poland	Amendments of Certain Acts to Deregulate Economic and Administrative Law and Improve the Principles of Drafting Economic Legislation	Deregulation package, significantly modernising and simplifying the regulatory environment for entrepreneurs. Introduces more than 50 business-friendly measures.
Portugal	Review of administrative procedures and legislative changes	Systematic review and simplification of procedures across core legislation.
	"SIMPLEX Programme"	Flagship digitalisation and simplification agenda aiming to streamline administrative procedures, reduce reporting obligations and modernise interaction between businesses and public administrations.
Romania	E-government public policy	Strategy for digital transformation across public administration.
	Simplifying central administration procedures	Ongoing effort to ease core administrative procedures.
Slovakia	Recovery and Resilience plan (RRP)	Multiple measures to simplify the regulatory environment and enhance predictability of the law system, including one-in, two-out principle, ex-post evaluations, prevention of gold-plating, adoption of anti-bureaucratic packages as well as opportunities for businesses to submit proposals of regulatory adjustments.
	Reform of the Impact Assessment System (RIA process)	Aim to make the process more effective, including setting up a threshold to determine whether a simplified or full RIA is required, to re-define the institutional framework, to improve the processes (consultation process, evaluation of the impacts), to streamline the templates for the analyses, to include the lessons learned as well as a digital platform.
Slovenia	De-bureaucratisation packages of laws (2021-2022)	Bundled extensive legislative changes to eliminate or simplify burdensome regulations within several areas.
	Action plan for improving the process of planning, preparing, adopting, and evaluating the effects of legislation	Holistic plan to streamline and continually improve the legislative process.

Spain	Collaboration between the General State Administration and key stakeholder organisations to address unnecessary administrative burdens	Administrative burden reduction through a policy of consultation and collaboration with stakeholders. Structured cooperation to spot and address burdens via forums and workshops.
Sweden	Review and simplification of regulation	The Government has tasked 11 government agencies with reviewing and simplifying their own regulations and general guidelines and submitting proposals concerning laws and regulations within their areas of activity, with the aim of reducing the regulatory burden on businesses.

Principles for law-making

Some countries have introduced overarching rules or approaches, such as the "one-in, one-out" principle, that require any new regulatory burden to be offset by the removal of an existing one.

Country	Initiative	Information
Finland	One-in, One-out principle	A political target by the current government. Administrative burdens and fees must not increase during the government's term. Hence, when a new rule triggers a burden. It must be matched by the removal of an existing one.
Lithuania	One-in, One-out principle	Compliance cost reduction goal. The overall level of compliance costs must diminish or remain unchanged every year.
Romania	One-in, One-out principle	One new rule must replace an existing one.
Slovakia	One-in, Two-out principle	New rules must replace existing ones.
Spain	One-in, One-out principle	Administrative burdens for businesses, generated by new rules at the central State level, are offset through new regulations reducing burdens for companies and the implementation on annual simplification and burden reduction plans made in each Ministerial department. Overall goal and monitoring each year. Some pieces of regulation are exempt from the application of One-in, One-out principle.

Dedicated committees/groups/offices for burden reductions

This theme centres on permanent or temporary national bodies established to coordinate, promote, and monitor the reduction of administrative or regulatory burdens. These entities often facilitate cross-ministerial collaboration, provide guidance to the government, ensure political and institutional anchoring of simplification efforts, and often oversee or implement concrete initiatives.

Country	Initiative	Information
Austria	Central Office for the Reduction of Bureaucracy	Established in September 2025 as a national focal point within the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs to coordinate, promote, and follow up on administrative burden reduction for businesses. This also includes implementation of effective measures such as one-stop shops, streamlining of reporting obligations etc.
Denmark	Fixed group of ministers	A standing group of 11 ministers coordinating regulatory simplification and burden reduction, especially from EU legislation.
Germany	Committee of state secretaries to lead modernisation and burden reduction	High-level body steering and implementing modernisation and burden reduction initiatives.
Greece	Bureaucracy observatory	Monitors the evolution of bureaucracy, conducts studies measuring administrative burdens and supports public bodies with data.
Lithuania	Commission for the Elimination of Excessive Requirements for Business	Group tasked with finding and removing excessive regulatory requirements. The group has tasked all ministries with identifying the largest sources of regulatory burdens and approve action plans to reduce at least 30%.
The Netherlands	Advisory Board on Regulatory Burden (ATR)	Independent board reviewing and advising on regulatory impact of legislative proposals and administrative burdens.
Sweden	The Simplification Council	Permanent advisory body tasked with reviewing and proposing simplification measures.
	The Implementation Council	Temporary committee providing impact analysis of new and existing regulation, assisting the government in reducing regulatory burdens of EU legislation.

	One-stop shop	A model for collaboration between governmental agencies and other actors aiming to reduce regulatory burdens in both direct/ short-term and long-term by addressing the issue from a business' perspective and burdens at the centre
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Specific simplification initiatives

A few countries provided information on targeted, concrete reform packages that streamline particular processes, sectors, or regulations.

Country	Initiative	Information
Latvia	Real Estate Development Simplification Package	60 measures to streamline construction and land registration processes.
	Public Procurement System Reform	Comprehensive reform to improve efficiency, transparency, and reduce administrative burden in procurement.
	Healthcare sector digitalisation	Simplification and digitalization of pharmaceutical licensing and medical institution registration.
Portugal	Licensing simplification "Licenciamento+"	Reform for easier licensing and reduced complexity.

Stakeholder involvement

This category encompasses initiatives focusing on the systematic engagement of businesses, citizens, and interest groups in the design, assessment, or implementation of regulation and simplification measures - typically via consultation platforms or structured collaboration.

Country	Initiative	Information
Austria	Online platform "SEDA"	Businesses etc. are invited to submit deregulation and simplification ideas via the platform. The Central office for the Reduction of Bureaucracy handles the ideas.
Cyprus	E-consultation platform	An online platform to involve citizens and businesses in reviewing and commenting on all new legislative proposals, major amendments, and significant policy initiatives.
Lithuania	Proposals for burden reduction from state institutions and business organisations	Broad collection of simplification proposals leading to regulatory burden reduction plans.
Poland	The "sprawdzaMY" initiative	An innovative, informal cooperation model between business, civil society, and the Polish government, created in 2025 to simplify legislation and reduce regulatory burdens.
Slovenia	Stop Bureaucracy Portal	Portal collecting and managing public suggestions for simplification leading to concrete measures.
Spain	Collaboration between the General State Administration and key stakeholder organisations to address unnecessary administrative burdens	Administrative burden reduction through a policy of consultation and collaboration with stakeholders. Structured cooperation to spot and address burdens via forums and workshops.

Digital platforms (one-stop-shops/single entry-points)

Several countries reported to have digital portals or single points of access enabling citizens and businesses to interact with public authorities, fulfil regulatory requirements, and obtain guidance - all in one place. These platforms streamline communication, reduce repetitive procedures, and foster efficiency.

Country	Initiative	Information
Cyprus	E-legislation platform	A digital platform providing public access to the complete body of legislation of the Republic of Cyprus from 1960 onward.
	E-consultation platform	An online platform to involve citizens and businesses in reviewing and commenting on all new legislative proposals, major amendments, and significant policy initiatives.
Denmark	Single entry-points to the public sector	Digital portals (virk.dk and virksomhedsguiden) where businesses handle all regulatory tasks in one place as well as find guidance.
	One-stop-shop (production facilities)	A central point of contact guiding businesses through all steps required for establishing or expanding production facilities as well as ensuring a guaranteed case processing time.
France	Portail RSE	A public digital service centralizing all non-financial reporting requirements. Applies the "Only once"-principle.
Greece	National Registry of Administrative Procedures (Mitos)	MITOS serves as a central platform for public service information, acting as a single point of reference for both citizens and civil servants. In it, users can access comprehensive details on various administrative procedures including prerequisites, required documents, processing steps, associated costs and timelines.
	NPAP Platform	Central information platform for simplification initiatives connected to the Bureaucracy Observatory. Provides administrative burden measurements, annual reports on bureaucracy trends etc.
Ireland	National Enterprise Hub	A central digital portal providing access to grants and support programs for businesses.
Latvia	One-stop access to e-government services	Portal centralization, one-stop digital access to e-government services.

Portugal	Creation of a One-Stop Shop for Businesses	Physical and digital service points for businesses and citizens to access public services.
Romania	Digital one-stop-shops	Digital portals providing unified access to public services.
Sweden	E-guidance through the standard industrial classification code (NACE)	Test service pilot enabling entrepreneurs to receive a list of permits, notifications, approvals etc. that may affect the establishment of the company as well as provision of guidance.

Digitalisation and automation of administrative procedures

This category consists of initiatives focused on digitalising and automating key administrative processes and exchanges, both within and between public sector entities and towards citizens/businesses. The goal of these initiatives is often to improve efficiency, minimise errors and processing time, and simplify reporting and service delivery.

Country	Initiative	Information
Bulgaria	Action Plan for Implementing Life-Event-Based Administrative Services	An action plan to digitalise and streamline administrative services based on key (business) life events.
Denmark	Automated business reporting incl. the Digital Bookkeeping Act, eDelivery, and Automated sustainability reporting	Digital infrastructures and reporting requirements (including the digital bookkeeping law) that save time and resources for businesses.
Greece	Electronic retrieval of personal certificates	Digital access to official documents for citizens and businesses.
Italy	Digitalisation between public administrations	National interoperability project aimed at replacing certified email (PEC) with full machine-to-machine communication between public administrations for productive activities (SUAP) and construction procedures (SUE).
Latvia	"People First" - Service Design Initiative	Modernises public services using digital transformation and user-centred design.
	Automation of annual income tax declaration	Fully digital, risk-based tax declaration system with automatic data pre-filling.
	eID and eSignature	Implementation of digital identification and signature solutions.
Poland	Eliminating the requirement to attach documents that are available in electronically maintained public registers	Draft amendment to selected laws, aimed at eliminating the requirement to attach documents that are already available in electronic public registers ('once-only principle').
Portugal	Interoperability of public services	Strategic push for secure data-sharing between public entities, reducing repeated document requests ("once-only").

	Digital reporting reforms (e-Invoicing, SAF-T, interoperable systems)	Mandatory digital e-invoicing, bookkeeping, and automated reporting systems to the Tax Authority.
Romania	Governmental Cloud	Centralized cloud environment for secure document and data management. Focus on digital applications.
	Simplification and digitalisation of key public services	Making central services simpler and available online.
	Digital identity for citizens	National framework for secure digital identification.
Sweden	AI for simplification	Use of AI for investigating potential burden reduction in administrative processes.

SME initiatives

Some countries provided insights into their special measures designed to support small and medium-sized enterprises, such as SME tests, dedicated units, or tailored impact assessments. These initiatives focus on ensuring regulatory changes do not disproportionately affect SMEs and on providing targeted relief and guidance.

Country	Initiative	Information
Ireland	Application of SME test	Part of the Action Plan. All government departments will apply the SME test to all measures.
	Small Business Unit	Unit serving as a focal point to ensure small business interests are considered across the government.
Portugal	Better Regulation instruments (focusing on SMEs)	Application of the SME Test and broader (ex-ante) impact assessment tools.
	National monitoring of the Small Business Act (SBA)	Annual or biannual monitoring reports tracking performance against 10 SBA principles.
	EU/OECD supported reforms for reducing burdens on SMEs	Implementation of reforms supported by the European Commission and the OECD to reduce burdens related to the green and digital transition of SMEs.

Other

This category includes innovative, experimental, or targeted projects - such as the use of AI to review regulatory obligations or special incentives for compliant businesses - which do not fit neatly into the other main categories but contribute to burden reduction.

Country	Initiative	Information
Czech Republic	LLM/AI pilot to review regulatory obligations	Pilot tests of AI-based tools to map, classify and review regulatory obligations in selected pieces of legislation.
Latvia	Expansion of benefits for "A" rating companies	Priority processing and additional advantages for companies with high compliance ratings.
	"Green Corridor" for Priority Investment Projects	Fast-track permitting and coordination for strategic investment projects.
The Netherlands	Pilot "Integrated implementation of EU sustainability legislation"	Joint project with academic partners to develop an integrated national implementation methodology for EU sustainability laws.
Sweden	Generative AI in the food sector	Project focused on evaluating and testing generative AI to explore and learn what is required of an authority within the food sector.

Focus areas

The below table provides a comparative snapshot of key approaches and instruments used by EU countries in measuring and regulating business economic costs. Please note that the table has been prepared by the editors and should be considered indicative. The data is based solely on the responses from the questionnaire.

Country	Burden reduction targets	Quantification thresholds	Ex-ante/ex-post	Countering gold-plating	Methodology	Digital tools
Austria	No	No	-	-	Effect-oriented IA	-
Bulgaria	Yes, but not numeric	No	Both	-	SCM, cost-benefit analyse, cost-effectiveness, multicriteria analysis	Digital calculators
Croatia	Yes, but not numeric	No	Ex-ante	No	SCM	Digital SME-test
Cyprus	No, but active effort to simplify	Sector-specific, linked to tax and compliance	Ex-ante	No	Cost-benefit analysis, some SCM	No
Czech Republic	No, but active effort to simplify	Proportionality-approach	Both	Safeguards	SCM, cost-benefit analyse, cost-effectiveness	Templates and early AI-experimentation
Denmark	No, but active effort to simplify	Yes, for business costs	Ex-ante	Safeguards	SCM	Early AI-experimentation
Finland	Yes, zero increase	No – almost everything is quantified	Ex-ante	Safeguards	SCM	Digital calculator
France	Yes, but not numeric	-	Ex-ante	-	SCM	-
Germany	Yes: 25 %	Yes	Ex-ante, some ex-post	Safeguards	SCM	Digital calculator, early AI-experimentation

Greece	-	-	Ex-ante or comparative	Safeguards and procedures	SCM	-
Ireland	Yes, but not numeric	No	Ex-ante, some ex-post	Objective: no gold-plating	No standard methodology	-
Italy	Yes, reduction	No	Both	Safeguards	National guidelines	-
Latvia	No, but strategic aims	No	Both	Not permitted	Extended SCM	Digital calculator, EDS platform, AI-based assistants
Lithuania	Yes, 30 %	Yes	Both	Identification	SCM	Digital calculator
Luxembourg	No	No	No	Consultation	No methodology	-
The Netherlands	Yes, but not numeric	No	Both	"No gold-plating"-principle	SCM, cost-benefit analysis	Early AI-experimentation
Poland	Yes, but not numeric	No	Ex-ante, some ex-post	Safeguards	SCM	Early AI-experimentation
Portugal	Yes, but not numeric	No	Ex-ante when justified	Safeguards	Extended SCM, cost-benefit and proportionality analysis	Automated reporting systems
Romania	Yes: 20 %	No	Ex-ante, some ex-post	Safeguards	Burden Hunting, Regulatory Guillotine, Compliance Cost Measurement	Early AI-experimentation
Slovakia	Yes, but not numeric	No – almost everything is quantified in terms of business costs	Both	Safeguards	SCM	Digital calculator

Slovenia	Yes, €18M per year	No	Both	Safeguards	SCM	Digital calculator
Spain	No – ongoing effort	No – almost everything is quantified	Ex-ante	No	SCM	No
Sweden	Yes - reduction	No	Ex-ante, ad hoc ex-post	Safeguards	SCM, cost-benefit analysis	Burden calculator, early AI-experimentation

Country profiles

All information in this section has been provided directly by the Member States via the questionnaire and has not been rewritten or assessed by the editors. The sole purpose is to support knowledge-sharing on practical initiatives.

Austria

Current burden reduction initiatives

Central Office for the Reduction of Bureaucracy

In September 2025 Austria established a dedicated focal point for administrative burden reduction and deregulation (DE: Zentrale Stelle zur Entbürokratisierung) within the Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs. This new Office coordinates national efforts to reduce administrative burdens for businesses and the wider public.

The Office is responsible for identifying and developing concrete simplification measures through a broad participation process with (inter alia) businesses. They are invited to submit deregulation and simplification ideas via the newly launched low-threshold online platform “SEDA” (DE: Servicestelle für Entbürokratisierungs- und Deregulierungsanliegen). This is the first nationwide outreach in Austria explicitly dedicated to simplification and bureaucracy reduction across all administrative areas. Early results indicate strong public interest (more than 3000 ideas submitted within the first two weeks of the launch), which the office considers essential for a cross-sector reform effort. In parallel, the Office engages proactively with key stakeholders to deepen analyses and align proposals.

All input from SEDA and stakeholder exchanges is reviewed based on a standardised process to identify major pain points. Feasible measures are examined more closely and are subsequently channelled into the political process for implementation.

In particular, initiatives like one-stop shops, linking registries and the streamlining of reporting obligations of companies are considered effective means to reduce business economic costs without weakening standards. The implementation of such measures and the widespread adoption of the once-only principle are essential for the reduction of compliance costs and are therefore being pursued by the Office on the national level.

Going forward, the office will also contribute to ex ante evaluations of legislative proposals to ensure that the objective of simplification is embedded directly in the law-making process. In line with the government’s working programme, Austria aims to significantly reduce reporting requirements for businesses, especially SMEs, in national legislation. Further, the office intends to publish an annual report on progress in reducing bureaucracy and administrative costs.

Link (webpage in German): <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/themen/seda-servicestelle-fuer-entbuerokratisierungs-und-deregulierungsanliegen>

Burden reduction targets

The Austrian government has not committed to a specific burden reduction target. However, in its work programme, the government commits to a brake on administrative burdens, a reduction of administrative cost and a transparent account of the cost of bureaucracy. A further declared target is to significantly reduce reporting requirements for companies.

Quantification of business economic costs

Austria applies an effect-oriented impact assessment (DE: Wirkungsorientierte Folgenabschätzung – WFA), to a wide range of new laws before they are adopted. It is the responsibility of each ministry to conduct such assessment with respect to their legislative proposals. The Federal Chancellery is responsible for the controlling of the cross-ministry calculation/quantification of economic costs.

Bulgaria

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. Administrative Burden Reduction Plan (Council of Ministers Decision No. 233 of 29 March 2024)

Government-wide plan containing 235 measures aimed at reducing administrative burdens on citizens and businesses, including: removal of required documents, ex officio data exchange between authorities, shortening of deadlines, and better use and integration of existing registers. The plan requires amendments to 91 laws and includes a strong focus on once-only data collection and registry reform. It includes horizontal measures that modify and simplify a substantial number of administrative procedures across different authorities, eliminating the requirement for service applicants to submit copies of cadastral maps and other cadastral data; proof of an employment relationship; a certificate of legal capacity to practise law; and information on the existence or absence of criminal proceedings, charges, or defendant status.

Link: Information on the Plan and subsequent implementation reports is published on the Portal for Public Consultations: <https://www.strategy.bg/bg/strategy-documents/1685>

2. Action Plan for Implementing Life-Event-Based Administrative Services (Council of Ministers Decision No. 176 of 21 March 2025)

Government Action Plan to implement administrative services organised around 11 “life events” (e.g. birth of a child, starting a business, closing a business, hiring an employee, loss of employment, purchase and sale of real estate or motor vehicles, marriage, death). The Plan contains 93 measures (normative, technological and organisational) aimed at simplifying procedures, reducing the number of interactions and documents required from users, and introducing ex officio data exchange – thereby reducing administrative and time costs for citizens and businesses.

As part of the implementation of life-event-based services, Bulgaria is undertaking significant administrative burden reduction through forthcoming amendments to the Civil Registration Act. The planned amendments introduce the once-only principle for key civil-status events and eliminate the need for citizens to submit certificates that the administration can obtain ex officio.

Specifically, the planned amendments provide for:

- Electronic birth notification sent directly by the medical practitioner to the civil status officer; citizens no longer need to submit a birth certificate in subsequent procedures.
- Electronic provision of marriage data; paper certificates are issued only upon explicit request, while administrations must obtain marriage information ex officio.
- Electronic notification of death and entry of the death notification by the medical practitioner, eliminating the need for families to submit paper documents.
- Reduction of the requirement to provide a certificate of heirs, introducing ex officio data exchange for inheritance procedures.

Link: <https://www.strategy.bg/bg/strategy-documents/1717>

3. Concept for the Development of Regulatory Policy of the Republic of Bulgaria 2025–2027 (Council of Ministers Decision No. 175 of 21 March 2025)

Strategic framework for regulatory policy which explicitly includes reduction of administrative burden and improvement of administrative services as one of its core objectives. The Concept sets out horizontal measures to improve law-making, strengthen ex ante and ex post impact assessment, and promote the use of digital tools and central registers to reduce regulatory and administrative costs for businesses and citizens.

Link: <https://www.strategy.bg/bg/strategy-documents/1716>

Burden reduction targets

Bulgaria has set government-wide administrative burden reduction targets, but not as a single numeric percentage target. Instead, the targets are defined through concrete measures, laws to be amended and deadlines.

The Administrative Burden Reduction Plan is accompanied by a regular monitoring mechanism that tracks progress on all 235 burden-reduction measures. The most recent report — approved by Council of Ministers Decision No. 557 of 21 August 2025 — presents the implementation status as of 30 June 2025. The next progress report is scheduled to cover the status as of 31 December 2025.

In the Action Plan for implementing life-event-based administrative services, each life event is structured into specific steps that describe the current situation, identify the existing problem, and set out proposals for addressing it. The targets are embedded in these proposed actions within each step of the Plan.

In Section 7, “Objectives, Measures and Monitoring Indicators,” of the Concept for the Development of Regulatory Policy 2025–2027, seven measures are included to support the objective “Reduction of administrative burden and improvement of administrative service delivery.”

For each measure, the Concept specifies a current baseline value for the given year and a target value to be achieved.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

According to Article 19 of the Law on Normative Acts (LNA), each drafting ministry or agency is responsible for conducting the ex-ante impact assessment of its legislative proposals and ex-post impact assessment of legislation.

In practice, line ministries perform the calculations.

There is room for improvement in this area.

Legislation subject to quantification

In Bulgaria, usually more complicated calculations are required in the process of carrying out full ex-ante impact assessment of draft primary laws.

A full ex-ante IA is required for brand new primary laws.

The obligation of carrying out full ex-ante IA does not depend on type of legislation – national or EU. Calculations made on EU level could be integrated in the full ex-ante report accordingly.

Quantification of different costs

Due to the Law on Normative Acts and the Ordinance on the Scope and Methodology for Impact Assessment, under the Bulgarian impact assessment system, all significant economic impacts on businesses should be subject to quantification within the process of carrying out full ex-ante impact assessment. An adapted SME-test is also required in this process.

There is room for improvement in this area.

The methodological framework includes:

- Administrative costs – costs arising from information obligations and reporting requirements (time and resources to collect, prepare and submit information, forms, declarations, certificates, etc.). These are quantified using the Standard Cost Model for measuring administrative burden.
- Compliance costs – direct costs for complying with regulatory requirements (fees and charges, investments in equipment or IT systems, adaptation of processes, staff training, ongoing operating costs linked to the regulation).
- Other business economic costs – any other significant economic impacts on enterprises, including costs generated by new or amended regulatory regimes (licensing, registration, authorisations); costs linked to the creation or use of new registers; specific impacts and costs on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are assessed separately as part of the SME impact assessment.

Quantification thresholds

Bulgaria does not apply a fixed numerical (financial) threshold.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Bulgaria performs both ex-ante and ex-post quantification of business economic impacts as part of its mandatory impact assessment framework.

Ex-ante quantification

Required under Article 19 of the Law on Normative Acts (LNA) and further detailed in the Impact Assessment Ordinance.

Every draft law, code and secondary act of the Council of Ministers must undergo an ex-ante impact assessment (partial or full), which includes the quantification of administrative, compliance and other economic costs where impacts are expected to be significant.

Ex-post quantification

Required under Article 18b of the Law on Normative Acts, which states that “the results of the application of a normative act shall be verified through an ex-post impact assessment.”

According to Article 22 of the same law, the authority responsible for the implementation of a normative act must carry out an ex-post impact assessment of all new laws, codes and secondary legislation of the Council of Ministers.

The ex-post assessment must be conducted within five years of the act’s entry into force, or within a shorter period if decided by the responsible authority.

Methodology and digital tools

Bulgaria has released several online tools for calculation within the process of carrying out full ex-ante or ex-post IA. The solution provides digital calculators with embedded formulas that support administrations in performing quantitative analyses under the main methodological models. These calculators allow for structured, automated computations for:

- Standard Cost Model
- Cost–Benefit Analysis
- Cost-Effectiveness Analysis
- Multicriteria Analysis

Link: https://strategy.bg/bg/impact_assessments/forms

The objective of these digital tools is helping line ministry experts, to reduce manual calculation errors and facilitate the preparation of both full ex-ante impact assessments and ex-post impact assessments. Monitoring of the usage of these tools is to be made in months to come.

Croatia

Current burden reduction initiatives

Croatia's ongoing burden reduction initiatives include a series of Action Plans (2018–2025) focused on simplifying regulations, optimizing procedures, and reducing administrative costs to improve competitiveness and the business climate.

The first 3 Action Plans for reducing the Administrative Burden on the Economy (2017–2020) aimed to reduce individual administrative and parafiscal burdens through the Standard Cost Model (SCM) methodology focused to detect and reduce costs arising from regulatory and procedural obligations for businesses.

The 4th Action plan from 2020 was process-focused and combined SCM and life-event methodology to detect and optimise the 10 most burdensome business processes.

The 5th Action Plan from 2024 was part of NRRP and is being implemented through a TSI project in cooperation with the OECD with focus on “Advancing Regulatory Policy in Croatia through Innovation and Digitalisation” (the name of the project).

All Action Plans were developed in cooperation with entrepreneurs and business associations, focusing on simplifying and digitizing procedures. Here are some brief descriptions of the action plans:

- An analysis of 939 regulations with impact on business was conducted with identified 3076 different administrative obligations, resulting in a 2018 Plan with 142 measures (140 implemented, 98.6% of planned reductions achieved) and 2019 Plan with 314 measures (240 implemented, 95.9% of planned reduction achieved).
- 2020 Plan: Covered optimisation and digitalization of 10 administrative procedures (example: establishment of a single platform for payment of mandatory fees); all completed with 100% of planned financial relief. Overall administrative relief from 2018–2020 measures: €252.8 million (98.2% of planned total).
- Action Plan for 2024–2025 used an enhanced SCM-approach adapted from the Italian model, focused on the following areas: tax policy, tourism, pension system, agriculture, and transport. Planned administrative relief is €364.09 million and by now, 43 out of 103 measures have been implemented, achieving €206.9 million in reductions.

Burden reduction targets

Each action plan had precisely defined measures, and for each measure, a method of implementation, a body responsible for implementation, a deadline for implementation, and an estimate of burden reduction calculated in Euros using the SCM methodology that could be achieved through the aforementioned relief were determined.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Business Environment Improving Service having function of Better Regulation Unit, as part of the Ministry of Economy, is responsible for initiating and coordinating burden reduction initiatives. Therefore, this unit

initiated preparation, calculation and adopting action plans and work as “watch dog” over competent ministry during implementation, ensuring that set targets are met.

Part of the unit is implementation of SME test (assessment of the impact of regulations on small and medium-sized enterprises) for new regulations as watch dog for competent authorities that are responsible for scrutinizing if legislation is affecting businesses, and to quantify administrative costs.

Legislation subject to quantification

All national legislation with impact on business, including implementation of EU-legislation in Croatian law, i.e. Directives, are subject to quantification. There are no thresholds. EU-regulations and level 2-regulations that are directly applicable without national transposition do not undergo quantification.

Quantification of different costs

In action plans only administrative costs are quantified. But, as there isn't a strict line for what is considered a compliance cost, if whole procedure is measured, then also compliance costs may be included considering that the total costs that the business will incur due to the digitization of the procedure is taken into calculation.

Quantification thresholds

There are no exact thresholds in value set up. For action plans, the criterion for choosing which area was measured was the impact on business and/or according to the complaints and suggestions from the business sector. For the SME-test, Croatia set up triage system and if a short pre-evaluation indicates the existence of an administrative burden, a full test must be carried out.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Through an SME-test during the adoption procedure it is obliged to carry out ex-ante quantifications of administrative burdens regarding national legislations, including implementation of EU-legislation. Ex-post quantifications are not obliged to be carried out. Although the previous Action plans can be considered as ex-post analyses (as they measured legislation already in effect), they will no longer be implemented in the current way because they require significant staff and time resources compared to relatively small effects in an economy of rapid change.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

There is no specific rule or principle regarding Gold-plating, but there is a general principle that obligations and requirements towards entrepreneurs must contain the lowest possible level of administrative costs and conditions for market access.

Methodology and digital tools

We use the Standard Cost Model. For SME-test we developed digital application with structured questions and integrated SCM calculator. Digital SME-test enables the fully digital implementation of SME-tests, control, and communication between control unit and competent ministry which conducts the test. Other methodologies we considered were never implemented due to constant organisational changes and fluctuations in the professional staff needed to conduct demanding analyses.

Cyprus

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. *e-legislation platform*

This platform will provide, in fully digital form, the complete body of legislation of the Republic of Cyprus from 1960 onward. It will contain all primary laws together with every amendment enacted over the years, offering a consolidated and historically accurate record.

Designed to serve the needs of the public sector, legal professionals, the judiciary, businesses, and any individual seeking reliable legal information, the platform will allow users to access the law as it stood at any specific point in time. By ensuring clarity, accessibility and legal certainty, it will become an essential tool for anyone working with or interpreting Cypriot legislation.

This platform will be completed in 2026.

2. *e-consultation platform*

This platform hosts all new legislative proposals, major amendments, and significant policy initiatives, enabling stakeholders and the wider public to review and comment before these are submitted to Parliament for approval.

It is highly effective, as it provides an open and structured channel for citizens, businesses, professional bodies, and organisations to share their views, contribute ideas, and raise concerns at an early stage of the policy-making process. In this way, those affected by new laws have the opportunity to be heard before a proposal is finalised and enters the legislative process.

The e-consultation platform contributes directly to burden reduction by enabling early and structured feedback from businesses, citizens, and professional bodies. This input helps ministries identify unnecessary administrative requirements, complex procedures, or duplicative obligations before a proposal is finalised. By correcting issues at an early stage, the platform improves the quality and proportionality of legislation, prevents the creation of new burdens, and reduces the need for later amendments, by saving time and resources for the businesses, public administration and stakeholders.

Burden reduction targets

At this stage, our administration has not set specific quantitative targets for reducing business economic or administrative burdens. However, we are actively working toward simplifying procedures and reducing unnecessary obligations for both businesses and the civil service. This includes ongoing digitalisation efforts, streamlining of licensing and reporting requirements, and improvements to administrative processes aimed at making services faster, more efficient, and less resource-intensive for all stakeholders.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Cyprus does not have a single central unit dedicated exclusively to calculating business economic or administrative burdens. Instead, responsibilities are shared across ministries: the Ministry of Finance

undertakes most economic analyses, while each line ministry is responsible for assessing the administrative and compliance costs of its own legislative proposals.

Legislation subject to quantification

Quantification of legislative impacts applies primarily to national laws and secondary legislation, as well as to EU directives when they are transposed into domestic law. Although EU regulations are directly applicable and do not require transposition, Cyprus carries out impact analysis for any national implementing or enforcement measures needed to give effect to those regulations.

Quantification of different costs

In Cyprus, the business economic costs that are subject to quantification are the administrative, compliance and regulatory impact costs.

Quantification thresholds

The thresholds used are sector-specific and primarily linked to tax and compliance obligations, rather than a universal threshold for all legislation.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Cyprus carries out ex-ante impact assessments mainly through the RIA process during legislative drafting, with each ministry responsible for analysing its own proposals and the Ministry of Finance supporting major economic or fiscal reforms. These assessments are generally qualitative with limited quantification. Ex-post evaluations are conducted only occasionally, usually when required by EU obligations or in specific sectors. There is no central coordination unit and no comprehensive national framework for systematic post-legislative scrutiny, so both ex-ante and ex-post practices remain fragmented and not consistent across ministries.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Cyprus does not yet have a formalised framework specifically for assessing or preventing gold-plating. When national measures go beyond EU requirements, any economic or administrative costs are reviewed only through the general Regulatory Impact Assessment process, which varies across ministries. There are no dedicated safeguarding mechanisms, such as mandatory approvals or specialised checks, beyond standard interministerial consultation and parliamentary scrutiny. As a result, gold-plating is monitored informally rather than through a structured, quantitative system.

Methodology and digital tools

Cyprus primarily relies on Cost-Benefit Analysis, with occasional use of elements from the Standard Cost Model. However, these methods are not applied systematically, and no dedicated digital tools, such as burden calculators or AI-based systems, are currently used for quantification.

Czech Republic

Current burden reduction initiatives

Since 2022 the Government has been implementing a series of “anti-bureaucratic packages” coordinated by the Government Analytical Unit at the Office of the Government. The packages identify and remove unnecessary administrative obligations for businesses, citizens and public institutions. So far, four packages have delivered 100+ individual simplification measures and amendments to more than 70 national laws. The main areas include digitalisation, elimination of duplicate reporting, removal of outdated requirements and incorrect implementation practices by authorities. Key measures include, for example, abolishing mandatory periodic medical check-ups for employees in non-risk professions, raising turnover thresholds for VAT and flat-rate tax, reducing some VAT penalties, enabling accounting in foreign currencies, and expanding online access to public services.

Further, the Government Analytical Unit has piloted the use of large language models to map, classify and review regulatory obligations in selected pieces of legislation. The aim is to support systematic identification of redundant or overlapping obligations and to prepare simplification proposals more efficiently, while keeping human experts in charge of final assessments and decisions.

Stakeholders’ proposals on how to simplify European legislation have also been gathered, and the next step is for these inputs to be evaluated, organized, and consolidated into a unified national position.

Burden reduction targets

There is currently no single numeric target for reducing business administrative burdens expressed as a percentage. However, the Government’s Policy Statement of January 2022 explicitly commits to simplifying necessary rules, abolishing obsolete obligations and focusing on reducing burdens especially for small and medium-sized enterprises. The anti-bureaucratic packages are one of the main instruments to deliver on this commitment, with an explicit objective to produce several waves of concrete simplification measures over the government term.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Quantification of business economic burdens is embedded in the broader Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) system. Line ministries are responsible for preparing RIAs, including the description and, where feasible, quantification of business administrative and compliance costs for their draft legislation. The Office of the Government – in particular the Government Analytical Unit – provides methodology and support. The RIA Board scrutinizes the quality of quantification in the RIA reports.

For cross-cutting burden-reduction initiatives such as the anti-bureaucratic packages, the Government Analytical Unit coordinates the analytical work and cooperates with line ministries on estimating impacts where sufficient data are available.

Legislation subject to quantification

In principle, all legislative proposals—including the transposition of EU directives into Czech law—are subject to at least a basic regulatory impact assessment in the form of an explanatory memorandum. Consequently, a qualitative assessment is always mandatory, while quantitative assessment is required where feasible and proportionate. At the same time, business-related economic impacts, including administrative burdens, should be assessed and, where appropriate, quantified.

EU regulations and level 2-regulations that are directly applicable without national transposition are usually not quantified separately, unless the Czech Republic makes use of national options or additional implementing measures that create further burdens.

Quantification of different costs

The main focus is on administrative costs (e.g. reporting, record-keeping, permits, information duties) and compliance costs (e.g. investments, operating costs linked to meeting regulatory requirements) for businesses. Where relevant and feasible, impacts on citizens and public administration are also considered. Existing RIA guidelines encourage the use of monetary quantification for significant effects, supported by data from ministries, administrative registers and stakeholder consultations, while less significant or data-poor impacts may be assessed qualitatively.

Quantification thresholds

We do not currently apply a single fixed monetary threshold that would automatically trigger or exempt the quantification of business economic costs. Instead, the depth of analysis and quantification is determined through a proportionality approach:

- Expected significance of impacts on business (number and type of entities affected, structural effects, sectors),
- Policy relevance and political sensitivity of the proposal,
- Availability of data and existing analyses.

For major reforms and proposals with clearly non-negligible business impacts, ministries are expected to provide at least an indicative quantification, while smaller or purely technical amendments may rely on a more qualitative description.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Ex-ante RIAs are required for government draft laws and other important regulations with expected significant economic, social or environmental impacts. This includes business administrative and compliance costs. For proposals with significant business impacts, ministries are encouraged to quantify these costs ex-ante as part of the RIA.

Ex-post evaluations are obligatory for legal acts that had a full ex-ante RIA. A review timeline and indicators are set in the original RIA, or the review must be carried out within five years of entry into force.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

The Czech Republic does not have a separate, routine quantitative measurement of business costs stemming specifically from over-implementation (“gold-plating”). However, safeguards are integrated into the legislative process:

- Government Legislative Rules and RIA guidelines promote a minimum transposition principle, i.e. national laws should in general not go beyond what is necessary to comply with EU requirements unless there is a clear, justified national reason.
- If a ministry proposes measures that go beyond EU minimum requirements, it must explicitly justify this choice in the RIA report and in the explanatory memorandum.

Methodology and digital tools

We rely on the national RIA methodology, which combines qualitative analysis with quantitative tools. For business burdens, we use:

- Elements of the Standard Cost Model for administrative obligations (time, frequency, number of entities),
- Cost-effectiveness or cost-benefit approaches where appropriate and data allow,
- Data from administrative registers, surveys and stakeholder consultations.

Digital tools include standardised electronic RIA templates and access to administrative datasets to support calculations. In addition, the Government Analytical Unit is piloting the use of large language models (LLMs) to map and categorise regulatory obligations and to support the preparation of simplification proposals, while final assessments remain with human experts. AI-based tools are thus currently used in an experimental, supportive way rather than as an automated decision-making system.

Denmark

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. *Automated business reporting*

This project focuses on the digitalisation of accounting and bookkeeping processes in connection with reporting to the authorities. The purpose of the Automated Business Reporting initiative is to leverage digital opportunities to reduce administrative tasks and reporting burdens for businesses. Automated business reporting will particularly benefit small and medium-sized enterprises, which have fewer administrative resources available to spend on invoice processing, bookkeeping, and reporting to the authorities. The following initiatives anchored at the Danish Business Authority (DBA) seek to overall standardise, digitise and automate business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-government (B2G) data sharing needed for automating business reporting.

Digital Bookkeeping Act

In 2022, the Danish government issued a Digital Bookkeeping Act requiring the use of digital bookkeeping systems, supporting automation, based on eInvoicing, autogenerating financial reports through standardised accounting, submission of annual reports to the DBA and reporting VAT directly from the bookkeeping system to the Tax Authorities. The new act ensures correct and safe storage of bookkeeping without increasing administrative burdens for businesses. The potential lies in fostering further automatisisation and standardisation through common digital standards for data quality and data sharing between companies and authorities.

To facilitate automation of bookkeeping and reporting and ensure that fundamental bookkeeping requirements are met, minimum standards have been defined for digital bookkeeping systems. These standards ensure common data requirements, enabling automated bookkeeping, secure storage of bookkeeping data, smooth data exchange, and automated reporting to public authorities.

Businesses can choose freely between a registered digital bookkeeping system and a non-registered system. However, businesses using a non-registered bookkeeping system must ensure that the system meets the required standards, or risk considerable fines. Additionally, providers of digital standard bookkeeping systems must ensure that the system complies with all requirements and notify the Danish Business Authority about their systems before they are marketed.

The Digital Bookkeeping Act is estimated to save Danish businesses 475 million EUR annually in administrative costs (after deduction of costs). In the longer term, the Danish Bookkeeping Act authorizes the Minister of Business to introduce mandatory e-invoicing and give public authorities access to e-invoicing information by administrative order. The requirement for digital bookkeeping has been implemented gradually and will be fully implemented by 2026.

More information on digital bookkeeping (link in English): [Requirements for digital bookkeeping systems | Danish Business Authority](#)

Public eDelivery Infrastructure: NemHandel

NemHandel is a common public digital infrastructure used for sharing business documents (e.g. eInvoices) between companies and public authorities. NemHandel consists of a digital registry where all Danish

companies and public authorities that accept digital business documents are registered. NemHandel is based on the OpenPeppol eDocument infrastructure and utilises common EU building blocks such as eDelivery, and it makes it easy for Danish companies to share digital business documents in a safe and seamless infrastructure between companies' digital business systems both nationally and internationally. It has been mandatory since 2005 for Danish businesses to use the NemHandel infrastructure when sharing business documents with the public sector.

Automated sustainability reporting

The Danish Business Authority is currently implementing a project on Automated Sustainability Reporting that aims to automate key company processes related to data collection and management, sharing of sustainability-related information, as well as the digitalisation of businesses' sustainability reporting for the purpose of reducing administrative costs for companies. This initiative is piloting several key components, including the establishment of a common infrastructure for open data exchange, the development of standardised digital data formats (such as those for the VSME and GHG emissions), and the creation of a standardised data model. This model will be tested and used by private sector actors to streamline sustainability accounting processes. Additionally, Denmark has begun collaborating with other Nordic countries to advance the adoption of automated sustainability reporting across the region.

Link (only in Danish): [Automatisk bæredygtighedsrapportering | erhvervsstyrelsen.dk](https://www.erhvervsstyrelsen.dk/automatisk-baeredygtighedsrapportering)

2. Fixed group of ministers

The Government has established a core group of 11 ministers to ensure a systematic focus on burden reduction, particularly in relation to EU legislation, with the Minister for Business serving as chair. The group's work focuses on the following objectives:

- Ensuring that Denmark does not adopt stricter EU rules than necessary,
- Ensuring that businesses remain a central consideration in new EU legislation,
- Exploring opportunities to streamline and simplify regulations.

3. Single entry-points to the public sector

virk.dk is the business digital entrance to the public sector and provides a unified access to self-service across the public sector. The platform provides access to approximately 1500 self-service services. This way, business owners have one single place to enter when they report, apply, or handle other matters with authorities.

The online platform, Virksomhedsguiden, provides a wide range of digital guidance from public authorities. It also offers an overview of available grants, events, and training opportunities for businesses – all aimed at making it as easy as possible to run a business in Denmark. The guide is tailored to support the daily operations of both new and established businesses. Thus, businesses only need to look in one place to find answers to questions, no matter whether it is about finance, business development, marketing etc.

4. One-Stop Shop (production facilities)

When establishing or expanding a production facility in Denmark, companies must navigate a comprehensive regulatory process to ensure compliance with all municipal and national requirements. To accommodate businesses and help them navigate the complexities, a One-Stop Shop driven by the Danish Business Authority has been established.

The One-Stop Shop delivers clarity and end-to-end support for businesses, offering:

- **Legally defined processing time limits:** Receive a guaranteed case processing time of 12–18 months for the required permits and approvals
- **Comprehensive and consolidated timeline:** Get a single, consolidated approval plan tailored to your project, giving you an overview of permits, exemptions and more. Early coordination across authorities ensures predictability
- **Personal dedicated coordinator:** Benefit from having a coordinator within the Danish Business Authority who will manage and coordinate the entire permitting process across municipal and national authorities, from application to ground-breaking.

Link (in English): [Establishing production facilities | Danish Business Authority](#)

Burden reduction targets

Currently, there is no specific burden reduction target, but the Danish Government generally works to reduce burdens on businesses in connection with both new and existing legislation.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

The Better Regulation Unit in the Danish Business Authority (part of the Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs) is responsible for scrutinizing all legislation affecting businesses, and to quantify administrative costs. The Unit also publishes a yearly report on business economic costs, which is presented to the Danish Parliament. With regard to compliance costs, it is the responsibility of each ministry to describe and quantify the business compliance costs.

Legislation subject to quantification

All national legislation including implementation of EU-legislation in Danish law, i.e. Directives, are subject to quantification if above the thresholds. EU-regulations and level 2-regulations that are directly applicable without national transposition do not currently undergo quantification.

Quantification of different costs

We currently quantify administrative and compliance costs. Each year, the total costs are presented in a yearly report to the Danish Parliament.

Quantification thresholds

We currently operate with two different thresholds. For administrative costs, it's € 537.000 (DKK 4M) For adjustment costs it's € 1.342.000 (DKK 10M). If the estimated business economic costs exceed these thresholds, a quantification must be carried out before the public consultation on the draft legislation.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

We are obliged to carry out ex-ante quantifications for administrative burdens regarding national legislations, including implementation of EU-legislation, if the thresholds are exceeded (see above). Ex-post quantifications are only carried out in certain cases upon agreement.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

We do not separately measure the administrative or compliance costs that stems from over-implementation. However, when EU-legislation is transposed into Danish law and affects businesses, it must abide by five principles. It requires political approval if the transposition deviates from one or more of these principles. The principles are:

- 1) National regulation should not extend beyond the minimum requirements laid down in EU legislation,
- 2) Danish enterprises should not be placed at a disadvantage in international competition; consequently, national implementation should not impose greater burdens than those expected in comparable EU Member States,
- 3) The flexibility and derogation options provided for under EU legislation should be fully utilized,
- 4) Wherever possible and appropriate, EU legislation should be implemented through non-regulatory alternatives,
- 5) Burdensome EU legislation should enter into force as late as possible.

Methodology and digital tools

We apply the Standard Cost Model when quantifying administrative and compliance cost. We have access to business registers and datasets, which allow us to retrieve data for analytical purposes. We do not apply AI to our work with impact assessments yet, but we are currently looking into the possibilities.

Finland

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. *One-in, one-out principle*

The one-in, one-out principle is applied in Finland as a political target by the Government. According to the principle, administrative burden and fees on businesses should not increase during Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government term (ending in 2027). The principle applies to all national law proposals, including gold-plating of EU regulation but not the minimum implementation of EU regulation. The total burden is compiled annually in euros, using a Regulatory Burden Calculator (based on the Standard Cost Model) and published in Annual Burden Reports.

2. *Removing at least 300 regulatory norms bothering citizens or business*

Prime Minister Petteri Orpo's Government has set an objective of removing at least 300 regulatory norms that bother citizens or businesses. These norms do not necessarily need to reduce administrative burden, but they could also otherwise simplify or streamline regulation. A parliamentary group of coalition parties has provided the Government with lists of proposed norm removals.

Link for both initiatives: <https://tem.fi/en/one-in-one-out-principle>

Press release on the Annual report 2024:

<https://valtioneuvosto.fi/en/-/1410877/government-deregulation-measures-bring-large-savings-to-companies-and-make-life-easier-for-citizens>

Annual Report 2024 English translation:

<https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/166221>

Burden reduction targets

The one-in, one-out principle implies that administrative burden and fees on businesses should not increase during the Government term. This can be interpreted as a burden reduction target (zero increase).

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Each ministry is responsible for conducting RIA on its own law proposals, including quantified assessment of administrative burden and fees on businesses whenever relevant and not insignificant.

Legislation subject to quantification

National legislation and gold-plating.

Quantification of different costs

At least Administrative burden and fees (minimum level). Also encouraged to assess other types of costs whenever feasible.

Quantification thresholds

No explicit threshold. Clearly insignificantly small costs do not need to be quantified.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Mostly ex-ante. Sometimes ex-post on ad hoc basis.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Gold-plating is considered national legislation and follows the same procedures concerning RIA. Gold-plating should be separated from minimum EU-requirements in the RIA. The Government Programme states that gold-plating should always be avoided.

Methodology and digital tools

The Regulatory Burden Calculator, which is based on the Standard Cost Model.

France

Current burden reduction initiatives

The French Government is implementing several initiatives aimed at reducing the administrative burden on businesses, particularly startups and SMEs. The PACTE Act (2019) and a simplification bill currently under discussion in Parliament include measures to streamline administrative procedures, reinforce the “Only Once” principle, and establish a unified one-stop shop for business formalities. These initiatives, along with several sector-specific reforms adopted between 2019 and 2023, also simplify regulatory requirements such as plant permitting.

The current Bill on the Simplification of Economic Life provides, among other measures, for the introduction of an SME Test to better assess impacts on smaller companies.

Furthermore, the Government has launched the [Portail RSE](#), a free public digital service centralizing all non-financial (CSR/ESG) reporting obligations applicable to companies. The portal applies the “Only Once” principle and offers a personalized interface with simulation tools, regulatory factsheets, and dashboards, following a “Think Small First” approach designed to reduce administrative burdens.

Burden reduction targets

Since March 2024, the Ministry for the Economy and Finance has undertaken a structured initiative to eliminate or simplify a large number of standardized administrative forms (“Cerfa forms”) required from businesses. The scope covers 535 Cerfa forms issued primarily by the Directorate-General for Customs (DGDDI), the Directorate-General for Public Finances (DGFIP), and the Directorate-General for Enterprise (DGE).

Target

The administrations concerned estimate that over 80% of these forms will be simplified by 2030 (e.g., removal of the form due to elimination of the underlying procedure, digitization, replacement by an online service). For the remaining forms – mostly already digital – the objective is to maximize pre-filling through the “Only Once” system and to reduce requested data to what is strictly necessary.

Methodology

A dedicated methodology provides each administration with practical tools to assess (i) the degree of digitization of procedures, (ii) the necessity of administrative procedures, and (iii) the relevance of the data collected from businesses.

First results

As of May 2025, nearly 150 Cerfa forms have been eliminated, with more than fifty additional forms planned for elimination by the end of 2025. The next milestone is set for 2026, when major IT and organizational projects associated with this initiative are expected to be completed.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

The Interministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (DITP), attached to the Ministry for Public Transformation and Civil Service, coordinates and supports efforts to improve administrative action and to simplify administrative procedures for users, including businesses.

The DITP manages the Administrative Complexity Barometer, created in 2008. It comprises two components (individual users and businesses). For businesses, it measures perceived complexity across 21 selected business “life events”, based on a survey of a panel of companies asked whether they have experienced each event within the past two years. The most recent business-focused edition was issued in 2022.

In addition, the Directorate-General for Enterprise (DGE) within the Ministry for the Economy is responsible for simplifying the regulatory environment applicable to businesses.

The Prospective Economic Studies and Evaluation Unit is responsible for informing public decision-making, particularly in the area of regulation. Its mission includes producing both ex-ante and ex-post evaluations to assess the impact of existing measures and to support the design of future policies.

Legislation subject to quantification

For business administrative burdens, ex-ante impact assessments are mandatory under Organic Law No. 2009-403 of 15 April 2009, which requires impact studies for draft laws. These assessments must include an analysis of the expected economic, financial, social, and environmental impacts, as well as the anticipated costs and benefits for all public administrations and affected private entities, with a description of the calculation methods used.

Draft regulatory texts (sub-legislative acts) that affect businesses, particularly SMEs, must also undergo an ex-ante assessment, documented in a mandatory impact statement.

Quantification of different costs

During the ex-ante assessment of draft normative acts, the quantification of administrative burdens on businesses is carried out, where feasible, using an interministerial measurement tool. This tool recommends considering:

- Deployment costs, including compliance investments, IT system updates, initial employee training, and other one-off investments; and
- Recurrent costs, such as financial transfers, accounting implications, annual administrative workload, organizational impacts, and direct employment-related costs.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Quantification mechanisms apply to the ex-ante assessment of draft normative acts. No systematic ex-post quantification framework is currently in place.

Methodology and digital tools

Quantification relies on an interministerial administrative-burden measurement tool, based on standard cost-assessment principles. It supports the evaluation of both one-off and recurrent costs associated with new regulatory requirements. This tool is used within the broader framework of regulatory impact assessments accompanying draft legislation and regulatory texts.

Germany

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. *Genuine state reform for Germany (Coalition Agreement and Modernisation Agenda)*

The German Federal Government has adopted an ambitious modernization agenda for the state and public administration. Among other things, this agenda aims to modernize the federal administration across ministries and other authorities, establish an efficiency fund, and redesign the state with a focus on the needs of citizens and businesses.

2. *Reduction of staff in ministerial and Bundestag administrations by eight percent (Coalition Agreement and Modernisation Agenda)*

The federal administration aims to deliver high-quality work with fewer staff. The goal is to reduce the number of employees in the ministerial and Bundestag administrations, as well as in certain subordinate authorities, by at least eight percent by 2029. This reduction process will be supported by the provision of steering instruments (including the development and piloting of a scalable approach for monitoring staff turnover to enable quantitative resource planning within one year).

3. *State Secretaries' Committee for State Modernization and burden reduction (Cabinet decision of 30 July 2025)*

The cabinet has established a committee of state secretaries as a decision-making body. Among other things, it is responsible for steering and implementing the modernization agenda for the state and public administration, as well as for quantifiable targets for burden reduction.

Burden reduction targets

The German Federal Government pursues quantifiable targets for burden reduction. The goal is to reduce administrative burdens for the businesses by 25 percent (approximately 16 billion euros (subject to update of the data basis)). The ongoing compliance costs for businesses, citizens, and the administration will be reduced by at least 10 billion euros. The implementation of these targets is allocated to the respective ministries based on their contributions to the overall burden without compromising on relevant standards.

Relevant standards in the areas of human rights, civil rights, consumer rights, labour rights, or the prevention of tax fraud will not be lowered. Effective measures to maintain and strengthen public security, civil defense, military defense, as well as to protect the climate and natural environment, will remain possible and, by decision of the State Secretaries' Committee, may be exempted from the reduction targets. (Courtesy translation of State Secretaries' Committee decision of 26 September 2025, page 1).

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Quantifying business economic burdens (compliance costs – Erfüllungsaufwand für die Wirtschaft) is part of the regulatory impact analysis. In general, it is mandatory to conduct a regulatory impact analysis and include its results in the explanatory memorandum to the bill. Accordingly, the competent Ministry for the relevant

act is responsible for the regulatory impact analysis. However, it is not uncommon that this task is delegated (in full or in part) to the Federal Statistical Office (Destatis), while responsibility remains with the ministry. The NKR, the government's independent scrutiny body, ensures that quantifications comply with the agreed methodology and that the estimates are comprehensible and plausible.

Link in English: see §§ 43, para. 1, Nr. 5, 44, 62, 70 of the Joint Rules of Procedures of the Federal Ministries, Gemeinsame Geschäftsordnung der Bundesministerien, https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/downloads/EN/themen/moderne-verwaltung/ggo_en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=8

Legislation subject to quantification

According to national law (NKRG), any national legislative measure (i.e. bills, regulations, administrative provisions) is subject to quantification. This includes the transposition of EU legislation especially directives.

Quantification of different costs

Compliance costs are at the centre of quantification. They are defined as “the total measurable time expended and costs incurred by citizens, business and public administration to comply with a given federal regulation.” Furthermore, administrative costs for business are separately quantified. They are a subset of compliance costs. For further methodological details, please see the Guidelines on the Identification and Presentation of Compliance Costs in Legislative Proposals by the Federal Government. The focus is on direct costs (excluding, for example, changes in price levels or cascade effects). Changes in tax burdens or social security contributions are also not taken into account.

Link in German: Leitfaden zur Ermittlung und Darstellung des Erfüllungsaufwands in Regelungsvorhaben der Bundesregierung, Chapter 6, pages 32 ff., https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Staat/Buerokratiekosten/Publikationen/Downloads-Buerokratiekosten/erfuellungsaufwand-handbuch.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

Quantification thresholds

The threshold for quantifying an obligation is set at 100,000 euros in compliance costs. For further details, please see the Guidelines on the Identification and Presentation of Compliance Costs in Legislative Proposals by the Federal Government. The focus is on direct costs (excluding, for example, changes in price levels or cascade effects). Changes in tax burdens or social security contributions are also not taken into account. Expenses exceeding €100,000 per year must be quantified; expenses below this amount only need to be indicated.

Link in German: Leitfaden zur Ermittlung und Darstellung des Erfüllungsaufwands in Regelungsvorhaben der Bundesregierung, Chapter 2, pages 11 ff., https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Staat/Buerokratiekosten/Publikationen/Downloads-Buerokratiekosten/erfuellungsaufwand-handbuch.pdf?__blob=publicationFile

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Ex-ante estimations are carried out for each new bill or regulation by the competent Ministry (if not delegated to Destatis). Ex-post quantifications for significant bills fall in the realm of Destatis and are typically carried out two years 2 years after the enactment of a bill.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

So far, the government has quantified compliance costs arising from national measures that go beyond EU requirements. The German Government is committed to reject over-implementation (gold-plating), see Coalition Agreement (line 2013 ff.): Bürokratiearme EU-Recht-Umsetzung: Bei der Umsetzung von EU-Recht in nationales Recht schließen wir bürokratische Übererfüllung aus. Courtesy translation: “Low-bureaucracy implementation of EU law. When transposing EU law into national legislation, we exclude any bureaucratic over-implementation.”

This also applies to statistics, see Coalition Agreement (line 1923 ff.). Courtesy translation: “Numerous existing statistical reporting requirements will be suspended. To this end, we will review the Foreign Trade Statistics Act, the Statistics Act for the Manufacturing Sector, and the Trade and Services Statistics Act. For the five most burdensome statistics for businesses, we will fully eliminate any national over-implementation of EU requirements.”

Modernisation Agenda (see press release 1 October 2025, in German:

<https://bmds.bund.de/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/detail/modernisierungsagenda-fuer-ein-schnelles-deutschland>, with link on the bottom to pdf). Section I, item 5, 5.4: "EU-Recht wird ohne bürokratische Übererfüllung umgesetzt (ab sofort)"

Cabinet decision of 5 November 2025:

<https://bmds.bund.de/themen/staatsmodernisierung/buerokratierueckbau> (in German). 1:1 Umsetzung von EU-Recht: EU-Recht wird ohne bürokratische Übererfüllung umgesetzt.

Methodology and digital tools

The assessment of administrative burdens is based on the Standard Cost Model (SCM). For the measurement of compliance costs, the SCM was extended to include the total measurable time expended and costs. The Excel-based cost calculator ERBEX (https://www.onda.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/ERBEX.xlsm?__blob=publicationFile&v=14) aims to simplify calculations. It is planned to incorporate its functions into the tool for digital legislation – E-Gesetzgebung (<https://plattform.egesetz.zd.in.bund.de/cockpit/#/cockpit>).

Currently, Destatis is working on a project (https://www.destatis.de/EN/About-Us/Events/Machine-Learning/Slides/s2_walprecht.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1) to employ machine learning and AI methods to lighten the burden of cost calculation.

Please refer to the description on the Destatis website, link in English: <https://www.destatis.de/EN/Themes/Government/Bureaucracy-Costs/Methods/Current.html>, Bureaucracy Costs - Methods.

Greece

Current burden reduction initiatives

The National Policy on Administrative Procedures (NPAP) was established by the provisions of Law 4961/2022 as the framework within which the administrative procedures of the public sector are recorded, evaluated, simplified, and improved, with the aim of continuously upgrading public administration and the services provided.

The NPAP is structured around three pillars:

1. The National Registry of Administrative Procedures “Mitos,” in which all administrative procedures of the public sector are recorded.
2. The National Program for the Simplification of Procedures (NPSP) based on which public-sector administrative procedures are selected for evaluation, simplification, and digitalization.
3. The Bureaucracy Observatory, which monitors the evolution of bureaucracy in Greece, conducts studies measuring administrative burdens, and supports public bodies with data and documentation to improve their procedures.

Within the above framework, note the abolition, as of 10 April 2025, of the obligation for citizens to submit the family status certificate and the birth certificate when these are required for the completion of administrative procedures. Public services that process administrative procedures for which the above certificates are required as supporting documents are now obliged to obtain them ex officio and retrieve them electronically in real time.

New actions for simplifying procedures are currently in the design phase, while since December 2022, in the context of the Bureaucracy Observatory, the NPAP platform diadikasies.gov.gr has been developed and operational, with the mission of supporting the other two pillars of the NPAP in a unified and coherent manner. 50 administrative burden measurements, as well as annual reports on bureaucracy trends in Greece conducted during the operation of the Bureaucracy Observatory, are available to the public through the platform, which was designed as the central information hub for simplification initiatives at the national level.

Implementation of significant next steps within the Observatory has already begun, including the development of a Bureaucracy Measurement Index (BMI), the creation of a mechanism to support Regulatory Impact Assessment with regard to estimating administrative burdens, the improvement and statistical standardization of the methodology for measuring administrative burdens, as well as the technical adaptation of the digital platform diadikasies.gov.gr to meet new functional requirements, facilitating the collection and processing of relevant data.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

The Bureaucracy Observatory monitors the evolution of bureaucracy in Greece, conducts studies measuring administrative burdens, and supports public bodies with data and documentation to improve their procedures. However, the Observatory is not responsible for scrutinizing legislation prior to its entry into force. The calculation and quantitative assessment of the compliance costs (economic burdens) during the pre-legislative phase are the direct mandate of the competent Ministry drafting the legislation. This

evaluation must adhere strictly to the projections outlined in the Regulatory Impact Analysis (Handbook and Manual drafted by the Secretariat General for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, in use since 2020), which is a requisite component of the accompanying bill.

Quantification of different costs

The Bureaucracy Observatory quantifies both administrative costs and compliance costs as part of its measurement activities.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

As far as measurements conducted by the Bureaucracy Observatory are concerned, they can either be ex-ante or comparative (ex-ante/ex-post).

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

The public administration attaches particular importance to preventing “gold-plating” in the transposition of Union legislation and, to this end, has put in place a set of safeguards and procedures designed to limit any unnecessary regulatory and economic burdens on businesses. In particular, it:

- (i) Ensures that Union rules are brought into force no earlier than the expiry of the prescribed transposition deadline, so as not to place domestic undertakings at a competitive disadvantage vis-à-vis operators established in other Member States.
- (ii) Legislates strictly within the normative framework laid down in the relevant Directive, subjecting any envisaged additional requirements on businesses to prior assessment and excluding those that are not duly justified or strictly necessary.
- (iii) Aligns, to the greatest possible extent, the material and personal scope of the transposing measures with that of the Union act, thereby avoiding any unwarranted extension of scope.
- (iv) Places particular emphasis on the clarity, precision and internal consistency of the provisions adopted.
- (v) Subjects draft measures, depending on their legal nature (draft law, presidential decree, ministerial decision), to ex ante scrutiny by the Quality Assessment Committee, the Council of State, and/or the Secretariat-General for Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (SGLPA).
- (vi) Upholds the principle of transparency, including through correlation tables and the systematic publication of the relevant legislative corpus, to enable effective scrutiny by stakeholders.

In this context, the Better Regulation Office of the SGLPA has contributed to the preparation and dissemination of several methodological handbooks and organises training seminars at the Institute of Training (INEP) of the National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government (EKDDA).

Methodology and digital tools

As far as measurements conducted by the Bureaucracy Observatory are concerned, they are using a customized methodology, which is based on the Standard Cost Model.

Ireland

Current burden reduction initiatives

The Irish Government's Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity, <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/publication-files/action-plan-on-competitiveness-and-productivity.pdf>, is a whole-of-Government strategic response to the challenges that Ireland is facing. The Action Plan is informed by international best practice and the Draghi Report.

A key focus of the Action Plan is improving Ireland's regulatory environment under the theme "Regulating for Growth and Controlling Costs." Measures under this theme include:

1. Red Tape Challenge

Introducing a 'Red Tape Challenge' across Government to significantly reduce regulation for SMEs, reflecting the European Commission's commitment to simplifying and reducing administrative burden for SMEs by 2029. This includes a review by each Government Department to identify regulations to be removed or reduced without impacting on policy objectives and a public consultation to identify areas of high burden or where burden reduction could be launched.

2. SME Test

All Government Departments will apply the SME test to all measures, in particular to policy initiatives where it is proposed to increase costs on small business and include the SME test in the Government handbook.

Measures undertaken by the Department (Ministry) of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment:

1. Small Business Unit

A Small Business Unit has been established and tasked with ensuring that the needs and issues of small businesses have a dedicated focus and are recognised and acknowledged across Government.

2. Offices and Agencies of the Department

Requested to apply the SME test when developing new initiatives or offerings and have also been requested to examine their organisation's processes to consider how they can be simplified, removing or reducing burdens without compromising policy objectives.

Details of successful efforts made by the Offices and Agencies to reduce burdens and adopt better regulation principles are to be included in each organisation's Annual Report for 2025, including with relevant metrics.

3. Regulatory Impact Assessment

Continued application of impact assessments, including Regulatory Impact Assessment to ensure proportionality in regulation, with a strong focus on SME specific impacts.

4. National Enterprise Hub

Access to grants and support programmes has been simplified through the National Enterprise Hub, <https://www.neh.gov.ie/hub>, which is an all-of-Government free service and has over 250 different supports for businesses.

Burden reduction targets

Quantitative targets or numerical goals have not been set for reducing administrative or compliance costs. While there are no specific burden reduction targets, an Annual Progress Report on delivery and implementation of specific actions set out in the Action Plan on Competitiveness and Productivity will be prepared and considered by Government.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

There is a requirement for analysis of burden reduction measures including quantification of burdens by the relevant Government Department in the context of Regulatory Impact Assessments and SME tests.

Legislation subject to quantification

In general, national and EU legislation to be transposed into Irish law are subject to quantification through Regulatory Impact Analysis and the SME tests.

Quantification of different costs

While administrative and compliance costs may form part of a Regulatory Impact Assessment and SME test, outside of those, Ireland does not specifically quantify business economic costs in a structured or systematic manner.

Quantification thresholds

No threshold is applied.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

A form of ex-ante assessment is carried out through the Regulatory Impact Assessment and SME test before legislation is introduced. There is also a requirement to undertake 'post enactment scrutiny report' twelve months after the enactment of a Bill. The primary purpose of this is to assess whether the legislation is working as intended and achieving its original policy objectives. Other than that, ex-post evaluations are less systematic but may occur through reviews or evaluations conducted by individual Department and state entities.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Ireland does not measure the administrative or compliance costs that stems from over-implementation of EU requirements. During the transposition of an EU Directive the objective is to give effect to a Directive without gold-plating.

Methodology and digital tools

There is no standard national approach. Issues related to quantifying business economic costs are a matter for individual Departments in context of Regulatory Impact Assessment and SME tests.

Italy

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. *Agenda per la Semplificazione 2020–2026 (updated in 2022)*

National strategic programme aligned with the PNRR and coordinated by the Department of Public Administration. It aims at eliminating administrative bottlenecks through procedural simplification, digitalisation, interoperability of databases, Once Only principle and reduction of redundant obligations. The programme also includes the re-engineering of around 600 critical procedures by 2026 under PNRR Reform 2.2.

2. *“Taglia-oneri” Programme and Annual Burden Report*

Permanent national programme for the measurement and reduction of administrative burdens for citizens and businesses. It is based on structured burden measurement, stakeholder consultations and regulatory corrections. Results feed into the Annual Report on Introduced and Eliminated Burdens ("Relazione annuale sul bilancio degli oneri").

3. *Digitalisation of SUAP and SUE procedures (PNRR – Sub-investment 2.2.3)*

National interoperability project aimed at replacing certified email (PEC) with full machine-to-machine communication between public administrations for productive activities (SUAP) and construction procedures (SUE). The project is based on a central national hub, standardised data flows and open-source interoperable software (<https://www.suapsue.gov.it/>). Main objectives include simplification and automation of procedures, transparency, interoperability and significant reduction of administrative burdens. The project involves PCM–DFP, Regions, Municipalities, ANCI and Unioncamere.

Burden reduction targets

Italy aims to burden reduction, applying the “one-in, one-out” principle for balancing administrative burdens where not possible to reduce.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Each ministry is responsible for estimating administrative and compliance costs for its legislative proposals. Burden measurement activities also support the annual national burden balance report.

Legislation subject to quantification

All national legislation, including EU directive transposition acts.

Quantification of different costs

Administrative costs for citizens and enterprises are always quantified. Whenever possible, economic costs e.g. compliance costs are quantified in the Regulatory impact assessments.

Quantification thresholds

Italy does not apply a fixed monetary threshold for cost quantification.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Ex ante (AIR) is mandatory for Government legislative acts, with motivated exemptions. Ex post (VIR) is performed for legislative acts according to an ex-post evaluation biannual plan.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Italy avoids gold-plating in transposition. Any legislation that implies a level of regulation and burdens exceeding EU level burdens must be explicitly motivated and validated. Control of gold plating is embedded in the RIA process, in parliamentary scrutiny and in the annual report of administrative burdens introduced or eliminated.

Methodology and digital tools

Coded national guidelines are used.

Latvia

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. *“People First” – Service Design Initiative*

Description: Focuses on improving client experience through digital transformation and cultural change at the State Revenue Service (SRS). Includes modernization of EDS, intuitive interfaces, and wider AI use.

Link: <https://www.vid.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: State Revenue Service (VID)

2. *Expansion of Benefits for “A” Rating Companies*

Description: Provides priority permit issuance, automatic VAT refunds, and personalized exporter information.

Link: <https://www.vid.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: State Revenue Service (VID)

3. *Annual Income Tax Declaration Automation*

Description: Fully digital, risk-based system with automatic data pre-filling, real-time validation, and proactive notifications.

Link: <https://www.vid.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: State Revenue Service (VID)

4. *Public Procurement System Reform*

Description: Comprehensive reform to improve efficiency, transparency, and reduce administrative burden in procurement.

Link: <https://www.mk.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: Cabinet of Ministers

5. *Latvija.lv Portal Centralization*

Description: One-stop access to e-government services, reducing paperwork and in-person visits.

Link: <https://www.latvija.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: State Regional Development Agency

6. *eID and eSignature Infrastructure*

Description: Enables secure authentication and legally binding digital signatures, reducing paper-based processes.

Link: <https://www.pmlp.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs

7. “Green Corridor” for Priority Investment Projects

Description: Fast-track permitting and coordination for strategic investment projects.

Link: <https://www.em.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: Ministry of Economics / LIAA

8. Bureaucracy Reduction Action Plan (21 Measures)

Description: A 2025 plan with concrete steps to simplify processes for businesses and citizens.

Link: <https://www.mk.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: State Chancellery

9. Real Estate Development Simplification Package

Description: 60 measures to streamline construction and land registration processes.

Link: <https://www.mk.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: State Chancellery

10. Healthcare Sector Digitalization

Description: Simplification and digitalization of pharmaceutical licensing and medical institution registration.

Link: <https://www.vm.gov.lv>

Point of Contact: Ministry of Health

Note: For detailed contacts, refer to official websites or institutional directories.

Burden reduction targets

Latvia does not have a single legally defined quantitative or monetary threshold for reducing administrative burden. However, the government has set clear strategic aims.

Overall Goal

Reduce client time and effort in using digital services, minimize bureaucratic steps through automation and simplified communication, and increase satisfaction with public services.

Political Commitment

A government pledge announced in 2025 to cut bureaucracy by 25%, supported by a dedicated working group and sectoral action plans.

Sectoral Targets

Construction and real-estate plans include concrete measures for simplification, though not economy-wide euro targets.

Long-Term Policy Objective

Reduce administrative burden by 25% in key areas (licensing, taxation, reporting) by 2030, aligned with the National Development Plan.

Healthcare Sector

No specific numerical targets have been set; focus remains on process simplification and digitalization.

More Information

Government Bureaucracy Reduction

Public Administration Modernization Plan

Administrative Burden Reduction Measures

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Responsibility for reducing administrative burden and assessing impacts is shared across several levels.

Primary Responsibility

The line ministry or authority drafting a legal act prepares the mandatory initial (ex-ante) impact assessment (annotation), including monetary quantification of administrative and compliance costs. This is done in the TAP portal (digital drafting and coordination platform for legal acts and policy documents), https://tapportals.mk.gov.lv/legal_acts.

Central Coordination and Review

The State Chancellery reviews annotations prepared by ministries, focusing on impacts on public institutions, administrative procedures, and compliance costs. Other ministries review specific sections: Ministry of Economics (economic impact), Ministry of Finance (budget impact), Ministry of Justice (legal compatibility).

Sectoral Agencies

Bodies such as the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia (LIAA) and the Central Finance and Contracting Agency (CFCA) support burden reduction in implementation and monitoring processes.

Legal Basis and Methodology

Cabinet Regulation No. 617 (7 Sept 2021) sets the procedure for initial impact assessments. Each ministry must ensure the explanatory note includes an evaluation of expected effects on businesses, covering administrative and compliance costs. Detailed guidance is provided in the Regulatory Impact Assessment Guidelines by the State Chancellery, which outline methodology and practical examples.

Link: https://www.mk.gov.lv/sites/mk/files/media_file/tap_anotacija_vadlinijas.pdf

Legislation subject to quantification

Responsibilities for reducing administrative burden and conducting impact assessments are organized as follows.

Line Ministries

Draft legal acts and prepare initial (ex-ante) impact assessments, including monetary estimates of administrative and compliance costs. These are submitted via the TAP portal (https://tapportals.mk.gov.lv/legal_acts).

Central Review

The State Chancellery evaluates annotations for impacts on institutions and procedures. Other ministries review specific aspects: Economics (economic impact), Finance (budget), Justice (legal compliance).

Supporting Agencies: LIAA and CFCA assist with implementation and monitoring of burden reduction measures.

Legal Framework

Cabinet Regulation No. 617 (7 Sept 2021) defines the process for initial impact assessments. Guidance on methodology and examples is provided in the State Chancellery's Regulatory Impact Assessment Guidelines (https://www.mk.gov.lv/sites/mk/files/media_file/tap_anotacija_vadlinijas.pdf).

Quantification of different costs

Responsibilities for reducing administrative burden and assessing impacts include:

What to quantify

Administrative costs (information-provision obligations), compliance costs (meeting substantive requirements), and time-based burden for individuals. All require monetary valuation and time estimates.

Measurement approach

Calculations typically use hours per event × frequency × number of subjects for time costs, plus monetary estimates for administrative and compliance obligations.

Legal requirement

Cabinet Regulation No. 617 mandates these elements in the annotation for draft legal acts, alongside other impacts such as macroeconomic, budgetary, and social effects.

Process

Line ministries prepare the annotation in the TAP portal (https://tapportals.mk.gov.lv/legal_acts), while the State Chancellery and relevant ministries review specific sections. Guidance and methodology are detailed in the Regulatory Impact Assessment Guidelines (https://www.mk.gov.lv/sites/mk/files/media_file/tap_anotacija_vadlinijas.pdf).

Quantification thresholds

No threshold is applied. Administrative and compliance costs must be quantified starting from EUR 1, as explicitly required by Cabinet Regulation No. 617. Monetary valuation and time-based estimates are mandatory for all relevant legislative changes, including significant system amendments affecting a wide user base. A formula for calculating costs for legal persons is provided in the regulation.

References:

Regulation No. 617: <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/325945-tiesibu-akta-projekta-sakotnejas-ietekmes-izvertesanas-kartiba>

TAP portal for annotations: https://tapportals.mk.gov.lv/legal_acts

RIA Guidelines: https://www.mk.gov.lv/sites/mk/files/media_file/tap_anotacija_vadlinijas.pdf).

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Yes. Latvia applies a structured approach to both ex-ante and ex-post evaluations.

Ex-ante quantification (mandatory)

Every draft legal act affecting businesses must undergo an initial impact assessment (annotation) as part of the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) process. This includes monetary estimates of administrative and compliance costs, time-based burden calculations, and other economic impacts. Cabinet Regulation No. 617 defines the process and requires these assessments to be prepared in the TAP portal for transparency and coordination. The annotation also covers broader impacts such as macroeconomic effects, competitiveness (including SMEs), and social considerations.

Ex-post quantification (voluntary but growing)

While not mandatory, ex-post evaluations are increasingly encouraged. Ministries must indicate in the annotation whether an ex-post review is planned, including justification, timeline, and indicators. Since 2016, Latvia has introduced ex-post evaluation in policy planning, and the State Chancellery has supported pilot evaluations of selected legal acts. In 2025, a comprehensive methodological guide for ex-post evaluation is being finalized to standardize practices across government.

Purpose and benefits

Ex-ante ensures that potential burdens are identified and quantified before adoption, while ex-post helps measure real-world impact and inform future regulatory improvements.

References:

Regulation No. 617: <https://likumi.lv/ta/id/325945-tiesibu-akta-projekta-sakotnejas-ietekmes-izvertesanas-kartiba>

Ex-post evaluation info: <https://www.mk.gov.lv/lv/expost>

TAP portal: https://tapportals.mk.gov.lv/legal_acts

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Gold-plating is not permitted. Latvia aligns national measures with EU minimum requirements and applies the “digital by default” principle to avoid unnecessary additional obligations. While business economic costs are not quantified in numerical terms for gold-plating scenarios, qualitative assessments are carried out during the regulatory drafting process. All new regulations are coordinated with relevant authorities, and established principles and procedures act as safeguards to prevent additional administrative burdens and over-implementation.

More information:

<https://www.mk.gov.lv/lv/administrativa-sloga-un-normativisma-mazinasana>

Methodology and digital tools

Latvia uses the Extended Standard Cost Model for quantifying administrative and compliance costs. The main principles and formulas are defined in Cabinet Regulation No. 617 and detailed in the Methodological Guide. Business economic costs are calculated through the TAP portal, which includes an automated calculator. The author of the draft legal act enters parameters in the annotation, and the system computes administrative and compliance costs in EUR for businesses, plus time-use estimates for individuals.

Additional methods and tools:

- **Service Design Techniques:** User journey mapping and usability testing.
- **Standard Cost Model:** Applied for administrative burden assessment.
- **Digital Tools:** EDS platform, AI-based assistants, and analytics dashboards.

Economic costs of doing business are not calculated separately; however, administrative burden is assessed during legislative drafting. Internal procedures and consultations ensure regulations do not impose unnecessary obligations. Within EU funds, Latvia avoids additional requirements and advocates for reducing reporting burdens at the EU level.

More information:

<https://www.mk.gov.lv/lv/administrativa-sloga-un-normativisma-mazinasana>

Lithuania

Current burden reduction initiatives

In the past three years, Lithuania has launched several significant initiatives aimed at reducing the regulatory and administrative burden for businesses.

In 2023–2024, a Sectoral Regulatory Burden Reduction Plan was prepared, which identified three sectors (healthcare, manufacturing industry, and food safety and catering), determined the main sources of burdens, and set out measures to reduce them. The plan set a target of reducing the regulatory burden for businesses by at least EUR 7 million, which was successfully achieved (<https://eimin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/verslo-aplinka/geresnis-reglamentavimas/administracines-nastos-ir-prisitaikymo-prie-reguliavimo-islaidu-stebesena/sektorinis-reguliavimo-nastos-mazinimo-2023-2024-metais-planas/>).

In 2025, the Government further strengthened its efforts – by Resolution No. 92 of 19 February 2025, the Commission for the Elimination of Excessive Requirements for Business was established (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/bce47a72f01e11ef8bf78f8ccc0e0474>).

The Commission instructed all ministries, by 1 April 2025, to identify the 2–4 largest sources of regulatory burden within their respective fields and to approve action plans providing for at least a 30% reduction of these sources of burden by the end of 2025.

In addition, at the beginning of 2025, the Ministry of Economy and Innovation collected proposals from state institutions and business associations on reducing regulatory burden and simplifying regulation. These proposals were discussed in working groups established by the ministries, and on their basis regulatory burden reduction plans were prepared, the measures of which are to be implemented by the end of 2025.

By Order No. 4-307 of the Minister of the Economy and Innovation of 26 June 2025, the 2025 Action Plan for Reducing Compliance Costs has been approved. The plan sets out 37 measures that must be implemented by the end of this year by the responsible departments of the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation and its subordinate institutions (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/8920225652b811f0b070ee7f1ceefc75>).

Burden reduction targets

All ministries are required to identify the 2–4 largest sources of regulatory burden within their respective fields and to approve action plans providing for at least a 30% reduction of these sources of burdens by the end of 2025. At the end of the year, the results will be reviewed, and the effectiveness and potential improvements of these plans will be assessed.

Government Resolution No. 333 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 April 2022, which approves the Methodology for Assessing the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs for Business, also establishes a compliance cost reduction goal, which applies to every governmental institution – i.e., these institutions must constantly seek out measures to ensure that the overall level of compliance costs caused by the institution's regulations for each calendar year diminish or remain unchanged relative to the beginning of the year (the One-In, One-Out Rule).

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

The administrative burdens imposed on businesses in Lithuania by draft legal acts have been assessed since 2014. On 22 July 2014, the Methodology for Determining Administrative Burden on Business was updated by government resolution, setting a new administrative burden reduction goal that is applied to every institution individually: the annual level of administrative burden placed on business that is created by regulatory initiatives in each institution's area of competency must be reduced or remain the same (the One-In One-Out Rule). The same update obligated the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation to calculate the total change in administrative burden placed on business by regulation within each institution's remit based on data the institutions provide in their administrative burden on business evaluation reports.

Since 2023, institutions have been required to assess administrative burden and compliance costs – i.e., all real financial costs, such as adapting premises to comply with legal regulations, staff training, acquisition of materials, etc. That means that in addition to administrative burden, including employee expenses, costs for external services, and additional costs, costs for materials and investments must also be evaluated (Government Resolution No. 333 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 April 2022, which approves the Methodology for Assessing the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs for Business, <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.134272D720DF/asr>).

Administrative burden and compliance cost evaluation reports summarize the evaluation of the administrative burden and compliance costs for business. The draft legal act is submitted with its evaluation report to the Ministry of Economy and Innovation, which is responsible for methodological consulting and for supervising the change in the overall level of administrative burden and compliance costs placed on business. The amendment to the mentioned resolution also introduced a 'One-In, One-Out' rule on administrative burden and compliance costs for institutions.

The Ministry of Economy and Innovation (the Better Regulation and Business Supervision Group) summarizes the data received from state institutions on the adopted legal acts that caused a change in the regulatory burden twice a year and submits the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs Monitoring Reports to the Government. These reports reflect the indicators of the change in the regulatory burden of institutions which are presented to the Government and are published on the website (<https://eimin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/verslo-aplinka/geresnis-reglamentavimas/administracines-nastos-ir-prisitaikymo-prie-reguliavimo-islaidu-stebesena/metines-administracines-nastos-mazinimo-stebesenos-ataskaitos/>).

Legislation subject to quantification

All national legislation including implementation of EU-legislation in Lithuanian law are subject to quantification. In the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs Monitoring Reports, Lithuania indicates in monetary terms how much of the administrative burden and compliance costs arise from national legislation and how much from requirements stemming from EU legislation.

Quantification of different costs

The administrative burden imposed on businesses in Lithuania by draft legal acts has been assessed since 2014. Since 2023, institutions have been required to assess administrative burden and compliance costs. The regulatory burden indicator is counted twice a year, and The Ministry of Economy and Innovation submits the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs Monitoring Reports to the Government.

Quantification thresholds

In order not to evaluate trivial costs, the government resolution and the Methodology for Assessing the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs for Business provide for the following exceptions for evaluating administrative burden and compliance costs:

- **1st exception:** Regarding administrative burden – where it takes less than 2 hours a year for an economic operator to fulfil its information obligations and where such an obligation applies to fewer than 20 economic operators, the change in administrative burden is not assessed.
- **2nd exception:** Regarding compliance costs – where an obligation does not require investment costs and the obligation does not apply to more than 5 economic operators, the change in compliance costs is not assessed.

Lithuania currently does not apply any other thresholds to calculate administrative burden or compliance costs.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Lithuanian institutions are obliged to carry out ex-ante quantifications for administrative burden and compliance costs for business (more information under “Burden reduction targets”). (Government Resolution No. 333 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 6 April 2022, which approves the Methodology for Assessing the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs for Business, <https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/TAR.134272D720DF/asr>).

An ex-post evaluation may be carried out either by the competent institution on its own initiative or in cases where such an obligation is established in legislation. By Resolution No. 308 of 5 May 2021 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Methodology for Ex Post Evaluation of the Impact of Existing Regulation was approved (<https://www.e-tar.lt/portal/lt/legalAct/7a73e670b15311eba871a26c1fc3fbc1>).

This methodology sets out the objectives of ex post evaluation of existing regulation, identifies the cases in which such an evaluation should be planned and undertaken, and regulates the evaluation process, public disclosure, coordination and methodological guidance, public consultation, the use of evaluation results, and the implementation of subsequent actions.

The Methodology for Assessing the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs for Business makes it possible to assess both the administrative burden and the compliance costs generated by an existing legal act, as well as to carry out an ex-post quantitative assessment of the regulatory burden.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

When the Ministry of Economy and Innovation receives draft legislation for coordination, it assesses whether the drafts establish obligations that, according to the Methodology for Assessing the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs for Business, lead to changes in administrative burdens and regulatory compliance costs. It also evaluates whether the proposed requirements are necessary and proportionate and submits proposals to institutions to eliminate excessive requirements (including those that go beyond EU requirements) as well as to assess changes in the regulatory burden for economic operators.

Additionally, it should be noted that under the Methodology for Assessing the Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs for Business, when quantitatively assessing administrative burdens and compliance costs, each obligation must be accompanied by information indicating whether it originates from national legislation or from EU regulation. In cases where the obligations proposed for economic operators exceed

the requirements laid down in EU law, the calculation report must specify that the obligation is of national origin. In the semi-annual and annual Administrative Burden and Compliance Costs Monitoring Reports submitted by the Ministry of Economy and Innovation to the Government, it is distinguished and assessed what share of the overall regulatory burden indicator is attributable to obligations of national origin and those stemming from EU law.

Methodology and digital tools

The Standard Cost Model (SCM) is used in Lithuania as a simple and effective tool for estimating administrative costs and potential savings, ensuring objectivity and comparability across assessments. Lithuania applies this model in national impact assessments.

Lithuania does not currently use any AI tool to calculate administrative burdens and compliance costs. However, specialists at the Ministry of Economy and Innovation have developed a practical tool – a calculator that helps assess the regulatory burden expected to arise from draft legislation. Practical information on the evaluation process is published on the website of the Ministry of the Economy and Innovation (<https://eimin.lrv.lt/lt/veiklos-sritys/verslo-aplinka/geresnis-reglamentavimas/prisitaikymo-prie-reguliavimo-islaidu-vertinimas/>).

Luxembourg

Current burden reduction initiatives

The focus in 2025 is on direct fiscal relief (tax rate drops) and procedural streamlining (unified platforms and once-only principle) to enhance competitiveness and reduce economic costs. E.g. Unified Business Creation Process: The target is to consolidate and digitise the initial registration steps for the Ministry of the Economy, VAT (AED), and Social Security (CCSS) into a single procedure (reducing time/steps).

Burden reduction targets

No quantified burden reduction targets.

Quantification

Responsibility

Each Ministry is responsible autonomously for its "simplification" measures according to the coalition contract. No central coordination.

Legislation subject to quantification

No quantification.

Quantification of different costs

No quantification.

Quantification thresholds

No quantification.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Generic question of economic impacts in Impact Assessment but generally no quantification.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Standard regulatory cycle with consultation of concerned business chambers, council of state, parliamentary commissions.

Methodology and digital tools

No quantification.

The Netherlands

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. Action Programme “Minder Druk Met Regels” (Less Pressure from Rules)

A multi-annual government programme launched in December 2024 to systematically reduce unnecessary regulatory and administrative burdens on businesses. The programme identifies and removes concrete bottlenecks through cooperation with ministries, business associations and the Advisory Board on Regulatory Burden (ATR). It also strengthens attention to EU-related regulatory costs during national position-forming and negotiations.

Under this programme, the government aims to remove or simplify before the summer of 2026 at least 500 concrete rules that create disproportionate costs or administrative friction for entrepreneurs. The longlist was compiled by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, drawing on input from business associations, SME surveys and the Advisory Board on Regulatory Burden (ATR). It includes both national and EU-related measures.

Link in Dutch: [Kamerbrief over actieprogramma Minder Druk Met Regels](#) | [Kamerstuk](#) | [Rijksoverheid.nl](#).

2. New advisory role for the Advisory Board on Regulatory Burden (ATR)

As of 1 January 2026, the ATR will issue formal advice on the regulatory impacts of EU legislative proposals during the preparation of BNC fiches (national EU position papers). This aims to ensure early identification of potential administrative burdens, to promote proportionate implementation and to prevent unnecessary “gold-plating”.

3. Pilot “Integrated implementation of EU sustainability legislation”

A joint project with academic partners (Erasmus School of Law) to develop an integrated national implementation methodology for EU sustainability laws (e.g. CSRD, CSDDD, EUDR, FLR). The goal is to reduce overlap and administrative duplication for companies, while safeguarding policy objectives.

Burden reduction targets

The Netherlands does not apply a single quantified national target for administrative burden reduction. Instead, the Action Programme ‘Minder Druk Met Regels’ defines measurable goals per policy theme and monitors progress through thematic working groups and regular reporting.

Progress is assessed based on indicators such as the number of simplification proposals (the ‘500-rules’ initiative), SME feedback, and the uptake of digital reporting tools. The Dutch Parliament requests the Government to reduce unnecessary regulatory cost burdens for the entire sectors of nine ‘indicator companies’ by 20 % by end-2026, or to have concrete legislative steps in place to achieve this outcome. The European Commission’s 25/35% reduction target is supported as an EU-wide benchmark.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Quantification and analysis for quantification of burdens is a shared responsibility:

- The Ministry of Economic Affairs is responsible for the correct application of the Standard Cost Model and for this purpose manages the Manual for Measuring Regulatory Burden Costs, which is applied nationwide.
- Each ministry must assess the effects of proposed legislation on businesses and citizens. Quantification of burdens is a central part in this assessment.
- The ATR independently reviews these assessments, checks whether the regulatory burden costs have been correctly mapped out and issues a formal opinion.
- The Ministry of Economic Affairs ensures that the responsible department correctly incorporates ATR's recommendations into the explanatory memorandum accompanying the proposal before the proposal is submitted to the Council of Ministers.
- For EU legislation, ATR's new role ensures that regulatory impacts are analysed in 'BNC fiches' before the Council negotiations begin.

Legislation subject to quantification

In the Netherlands, all national legislation, including EU directives transposed into national law, is subject to quantification. EU regulations that are directly applicable without national transposition are generally not subject to quantification unless national implementation is required.

Quantification is the responsibility of the relevant ministry, with ATR providing independent assessments and recommendations.

Quantification of different costs

Both administrative costs (e.g. reporting, information obligations) and compliance costs (e.g. technical or procedural requirements) are quantified where possible. Other types, such as enforcement or indirect compliance costs, are assessed qualitatively when quantification is not feasible.

Quantification thresholds

There are currently no fixed numerical thresholds for mandatory quantification. All legislative proposals are screened using the Business Impact Assessment (Bedrijfseffectentoets), which determines whether a detailed analysis is needed. The ATR advises when more precise quantification is warranted.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

The Netherlands conducts ex-ante evaluations before simplifying or removing regulations, primarily through Business Impact Assessments (BIA) and consultations with stakeholders. These evaluations help assess the expected impact on administrative burden.

After implementation, ex-post evaluations are carried out to assess whether the anticipated reduction in administrative burden has been achieved. These evaluations are usually based on feedback from businesses, surveys, and reports by the Advisory Board on Regulatory Burden (ATR). While formal cost-benefit analyses are not always carried out, the government monitors the real-world impact through practical measures and sector feedback.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

The Dutch government applies a “no gold-plating” principle: EU directives are implemented without exceeding minimum requirements unless strong policy reasons exist. Any deviation must be explicitly justified in the explanatory memorandum

ATR verifies whether this principle is respected. The government also pursues “burden-light implementation” of EU regulations, using flexibility and derogations to minimise national administrative costs.

Methodology and digital tools

The Netherlands applies the Standard Cost Model (SCM) for quantifying administrative burdens. For major policy reforms, the Dutch government typically conducts cost-benefit analyses to assess the impacts of legislation, particularly when these reforms are expected to have a significant effect on business compliance or administrative burden. This analysis is supplemented by other tools, such as stakeholder consultations and business impact assessments (BIA), to ensure that the regulatory impact is well understood before the policy is implemented.

(Digital) tools support quantification and monitoring, including:

- National business registers and survey data to estimate the administrative time and costs incurred by businesses as a result of new or existing legislation.
- Exploration of AI-supported text screening for detecting duplicate regulatory obligations (under the “500-rules” programme).

Poland

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. *Draft act on eliminating the requirement to attach documents that are available in electronically maintained public registers.*

The number of dispersed special provisions were identified that still maintain this requirement. In practice, this means that entrepreneurs, associations, and social organizations are forced to print documents whose content is already accessible to the administration in ICT systems. In the context of widespread access to digital registers, maintaining such a requirement constitutes an unnecessary administrative burden.

As part of the ongoing legislative work aimed at simplifying administrative procedures and eliminating unnecessary formal burdens for entrepreneurs the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology has prepared a draft amendment to selected laws, aimed at eliminating the requirement to attach documents that are already available in electronic public registers, according to the 'only once principle'. This applies in particular to printouts from the National Court Register and certificates of entry in the Central Registration and Information on Business, which currently must be attached to applications and documents submitted to administrative bodies and other institutions.

Link to the information of the draft law (in Polish):

<https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/projekt-ustawy-o-zmianie-niektorych-ustaw-w-celu-likwidacji-obowiazku-dolaczania-dokumentow-dostepnych-w-prowadzonych-elektronicznie-rejestrach-publicznych>

2. *The Act Amending Certain Acts to Deregulate Economic and Administrative Law and Improve the Principles of Drafting Economic*

Legislation introduces over 50 business-friendly measures addressing various aspects of entrepreneurial activity. These solutions directly respond to the needs and proposals put forward by social and business stakeholders.

The reform package focuses on several key areas: creating more accessible and transparent rules for business inspections, facilitating the first steps in starting a business, simplifying day-to-day company operations, improving relations between public administration and entrepreneurs and increasing the efficiency of public offices, and establishing more business-friendly principles for drafting economic legislation, including the implementation of the 'one in one out' principle.

With the adoption of this broad deregulation package, which entered into force on 13 July 2025, Poland has significantly modernized and simplified the regulatory environment for entrepreneurs.

Link to the act (in Polish):

<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/DocDetails.xsp?id=WDU20250000769>

3. *The sprawdzaMY initiative is an innovative, informal cooperation model between business, civil society, and the Polish government, created in 2025 to simplify legislation and reduce regulatory burdens.*

It emerged thanks to strong engagement from entrepreneurs and citizens, combined with the government's openness to dialogue.

Stakeholders have been identifying regulatory problems and proposing solutions to eliminate unnecessary requirements, to the Government Deregulation Team. Each week, the team (stakeholders and government representatives) has reviewed about 30 new ideas. The proposals agreed have entered the legislative process at both the government and parliamentary levels. Deregulation drafts have received fast-track processing through a dedicated parliamentary committee.

So far, experts within *sprawdzaMY* have submitted over 500 proposals. Of these, 294 were accepted, 96 rejected, and the remainder are still under review. The government has already implemented 159 deregulatory measures, resulting in amendments to approximately 320 laws across 85 legislative drafts. Second phase will focus on systemic reforms especially tax regulations and court procedures.

A full report from the first phase prepared by the *sprawdzaMY* team is available in English on the initiative's website, <https://sprawdzamy.com/static/files/reports/faza-1-0-june-2025-eng.pdf>

Burden reduction targets

One of the Polish government's recently defined goals in terms of reducing business economic or administrative burdens is adoption of at least 200 deregulatory postulates of the *sprawdzaMY* initiative by the end of the second quarter of 2026 to facilitate business activity and simplify formalities for citizens by reducing unnecessary burdens, accelerating procedure and creating transparent, effective law (<https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/priorytety-rzadu-bezpieczenstwo-innowacyjna-gospodarka-i-cyfrowe-panstwo> - only in Polish).

Moreover, Poland has implemented the principle of balancing administrative obligations (one in, one out principle). The principle of balancing administrative obligations (in force since 13 July 2025) is one of the rules guiding the preparation of draft legal acts in the field of economic law and the assessment of their functioning. It is regulated in the Entrepreneurs' Law (Article 67).

According to this principle, when drafting new regulations governing the commencement, conduct, or termination of business activity, the aim should be to avoid imposing additional obligations on entrepreneurs. If such obligations are necessary, they should be limited to the minimum required to achieve the objective of the legal act. At the same time, policymakers should look for opportunities to proportionally reduce or eliminate other existing administrative burdens in the same area of socio-economic life.

The principle of balancing obligations is intended to foster the creation of business-friendly legislation. It is addressed to those who draft new regulations and is meant to encourage the search for solutions that impose the least possible burden, while eliminating outdated or unnecessary requirements. At the same time, it ensures that the standards for conducting business activity and the protection of the public interest are maintained. The principle also reflects general legislative guidelines that emphasise the need for simplicity and clarity of legal provisions.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Each ministry is responsible for quantifying the costs of its own draft law in the RIA template. The RIA Coordinator, supported by the RIA Department in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, is responsible for scrutinising RIAs for both primary and secondary legislation.

Legislation subject to quantification

According to the RIA guidelines, all national legislation (primary and secondary), including the implementation of EU legislation, should be accompanied by a RIA that includes quantification of business economic costs. EU regulations and EU level 2 regulations that are directly applicable without national transposition do not undergo the quantification.

Quantification of different costs

According to the RIA guidelines, all relevant costs including administrative and compliance costs should be quantified using the RIA template.

Quantification thresholds

Poland does not apply thresholds.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

An ex-ante RIA is prepared for every draft legal act in the government legislative process and is attached to the justification accompanying the draft. It should present the results of the impact assessment including quantifications of the business economic impacts. In practice, the quantification remains a challenge.

An ex-post RIA is prepared when requested by the Council of Ministers or its auxiliary body, the SME Ombudsman (in cases under the Entrepreneurs' Law), or the RIA coordinator. It can also be prepared on the initiative of a member of the Council of Ministers. The ex-post RIA may cover the entire act or only part of it and is presented using a standardized ex-post RIA template including quantifications of the business economic impacts. Ex-post RIA should be prepared if the ex-ante RIA specifies that the evaluation of the act's effects will take place later.

For draft acts that affect business activity, the ex-ante RIA must include the planned scope of the ex-post RIA, indicators for evaluating the achievement of the act's objectives, and the deadline for preparing the ex-post RIA. If an ex-post RIA is not necessary, this must be stated in the ex-ante RIA. When public consultations are waived, the ex-post RIA must be completed within two years of the act entering into force.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Poland does not separately measure the administrative or compliance costs stemming from over-implementation. According to the Rules of Procedure of the Council of Ministers (§28(3a)), in the case of draft legal acts implementing EU law that introduce additional obligations or regulations not directly required by that legal act, the RIA must clearly indicate the provisions that exceed the scope required by EU law and justify them in terms of economic, social, and financial impacts.

The purpose of this regulation is to increase the transparency of the transposition process and to limit cases in which EU provisions become a pretext for introducing excessive national regulations without proper assessment of their impact. In practice, the obligation under §28(3a) serves as a tool to prevent "gold-plating," as it requires a thorough assessment of any expansion in the scope of transposition and obliges drafters to provide a comprehensive justification.

Methodology and digital tools

Polish RIA guidelines recommend the Standard Cost Model when quantifying business administrative costs. AI is not currently applied in RIA, but we are exploring the possibilities of its use.

Portugal

Current burden reduction initiatives

Within the current government, Portugal's Ministry of State Reform is responsible for digitalization and simplification, whose agenda is based on initiatives to reduce burdens for businesses and citizens.

1. Review of administrative procedures and legislative changes

One of the priorities of the current ministry is to simplify administrative procedures and legislative changes in terms of amendments to the Portuguese Public Procurement Code, the Administrative Procedure Code, as well as licensing regimes – commercial, industrial and urban planning. Simplifying life for citizens and businesses is the goal.

2. Interoperability of Public Services

Interoperability between public administration IT systems is a strategic priority of the Government, aiming to ensure that citizens' and businesses' data can circulate securely between public entities, avoiding the repetition of document requests and promoting a more fluid and efficient experience ("once-only" principle). To this end, the Agency for Administrative Modernisation (AMA) was reorganized, giving rise to the Agency for Technological Reform of the State (ARTE), to which a Director of Public Administration Information Systems (CTO) was appointed, being responsible for coordinating the State's technological architecture.

3. Creation of a One-Stop Shop for Businesses

This aims to facilitate access to public services through integrated physical and digital service points, where citizens and businesses can deal with multiple topics and issues in one place, reducing travel and waiting times.

In addition, Portugal has the following programs:

1. SIMPLEX Programme

The SIMPLEX Programme is the Government's flagship simplification and digitalisation agenda. It aims to streamline administrative procedures, reduce reporting obligations and modernise the interaction between businesses and public administration. Measures benefiting SMEs include:

- [Empresa na Hora](#) (a Portuguese government initiative that enables the creation of a company through a streamlined and accelerated process)
- Digitalisation of administrative interactions through [Gov.PT](#)
- Reduction of licensing and reporting requirements
- SIMPLEX+ measures that remove redundant procedures and documentation - [SIMPLEX 2025](#) (most recent edition)

Point of Contact: Agency for Technological Reform of the State, IP (ARTE)

2. Licensing Simplification: "Licenciamento+"

This reform reduces compliance burdens associated with environmental, territorial, and economic licensing. It shortens procedural timelines, mandates proportionality, digitalises requests, and applies “silence as consent” where possible.

- Licensing simplification example ([Defence sector](#) – SIMPLEX+)

Point of Contact: Ministry of the Economy and Territorial Cohesion / Ministry of the Environment and Energy.

3. Digital reporting reforms (e-Invoicing, SAF-T, interoperable systems)

Portugal has implemented mandatory and interoperable electronic invoicing, digital bookkeeping (SAF-T - it is a standardised XML file that compiles all relevant tax documentation for a company over a given period. The main purpose is to facilitate the communication of data to the Tax Authority to enable audits and combat tax evasion.), and automated reporting systems to the Tax Authority. These significantly reduce administrative burdens for SMEs with limited back-office capacity.

Point of Contact: Portuguese Tax and Customs Authority (AT)

4. Better Regulation instruments (SME Test, Regulatory Impact Assessment)

Portugal applies the SME Test and broader impact assessment tools under the PlanApp coordinated regulatory framework. Legislation with significant business impacts must undergo ex-ante scrutiny, including analysis of SME-specific burdens.

Point of Contact: PlanApp (Centre of Competence for Planning, Policy and Foresight).

5. “Custa Quanto?” – Ex-ante Legislative Impact Assessment

This [tool](#) requires ministries to evaluate administrative, compliance and economic burdens before legislation is adopted, contributing to predictable regulatory design and reduction of burdens.

Point of Contact: PlanApp (Centre of Competence for Planning, Policy and Foresight).

6. SBA national monitoring (Portugal SBA Reports)

Portugal publishes annual or biennial monitoring reports tracking its performance against the 10 SBA principles, including simplification, access to finance, green transition and digital transformation for SMEs. According to Portugal’s 2024 SBA Report, the country is implementing major structural reforms aimed at supporting entrepreneurship, digital transformation and the green transition for SMEs. These reforms contribute directly to reducing administrative burdens and increasing regulatory predictability for small businesses.

- [SBA Annual Report 2024](#)

7. EU/OECD supported reforms for reducing burdens on SMEs

Portugal is implementing reforms supported by the European Commission and the OECD to reduce regulatory burdens for green and digital transition of SMEs.

[OECD “Green Transition of SMEs and Entrepreneurship in Portugal”](#)

Burden reduction targets

The Portuguese Government is committed to reducing administrative burdens through:

- Multi-annual SIMPLEX objectives
- Better Regulation requirements under PlanApp
- Proportionality and SME-focused scrutiny in legislative processes
- Digital-by-default public services
- Ongoing licensing simplification reforms

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

The main entity is the Centre for Policy Planning and Evaluation – PLANAPP – a body located at the Centre of Government, which is responsible for Legislative Impact Assessment. It evaluates the economic, social, and environmental impacts of legislative proposals, and their burdens variations on businesses and citizens. The governmental responsibility is shared among:

- **Ministries:** responsible for producing the analysis of administrative and compliance costs in draft legislation.
- **PlanApp:** ensures methodological consistency, quality checks and coordination of the Better Regulation framework.
- **ARTE** (Agency for Technological Reform of the State): supports digital simplification and data-driven approaches.
- **The Tax Authority (AT):** provides analytical inputs for digital reporting simplification.

Legislation subject to quantification

In Portugal legislative initiatives prepared by the Government might be subject to quantification under the legislative impact assessment framework. The transposition of EU Directives may also be subject to quantification when national implementation entails additional administrative or compliance costs. EU Regulations (directly applicable) are normally not quantified unless complemented by national measures.

Quantification of different costs

In Portugal, costs to businesses are quantified (including time, documentation and procedural requirements), compliance costs (such as investments, reporting obligations and adaptation costs), digital transition costs when relevant, and proportionality impacts on SMEs, in line with the SME Test criteria. Therefore, the main costs quantified include administrative burdens and other compliance costs.

Quantification thresholds

In the case of Portugal, no minimum quantitative thresholds have been defined above which legislation must be subject to cost quantification.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

In Portugal, Article 28 of Council of Ministers Resolution No. 105/2025 of 3 July stipulates that: ‘Information on the legislative impact of Government normative acts shall be prepared when justified by their nature and relevance.’

Regarding ex post evaluation, its application is not carried out systematically, occurring only in certain cases on a case-by-case decision.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

As referred above, the transposition of EU Directives may also be subject to quantification when national implementation entails additional administrative or compliance costs.

In any case, safeguards exist during the transposition of EU Directives, namely:

- Proportionality checks and justification requirements
- SME Test evaluation
- Internal review by PlanApp and line ministries
- Avoidance of administrative obligations beyond minimum EU requirements, unless duly justified

These tools ensure alignment with SBA principles and reduce unnecessary burdens on businesses.

Methodology and digital tools

The methodology applied follows an extended version of the Standard Cost Model (SCM), which, in addition, to estimating administrative burdens, also considers impacts on citizens and integrates other cost dimensions not captured by the original model.

Standard methodologies include:

- Standard Cost Model (SCM) for administrative burden estimation
- Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) under PlanApp
- SME Test for disproportionate impacts
- Cost-benefit and proportionality analysis

A dedicated digital platform supports the process by connecting ministerial offices responsible for legislative drafting with evaluators enabling the submission and management of simplified impact assessments based on the Standard Cost Model.

Digital tools include:

- Interoperable public-sector datasets
- Gov.PT and AT digital platforms
- Automated reporting systems

Also, Portugal continues to actively contribute to the EU SME Envoy Network, which facilitates dialogue on SME policy, regulatory simplification and SBA implementation across Member States.

Romania

Current burden reduction initiatives

In the past three years, the government has had the following initiatives to reduce regulatory and/or administrative burden for businesses and citizens.

1. *Legal and methodological framework*

- E-government public policy
<https://sgg.gov.ro/1/propuneri-domeniu-08-educatie-cercetare-digitalizare-cultura/>
- Government Decision No. 443/2022 – impact assessment and One-In-One-Out principle
<https://legislatie.just.ro/public/DetaliiDocument/253645>
- Law No. 9/2023 – simplifying central administration procedures
<https://legislatie.just.ro/public/DetaliiDocument/263706>

2. *Concrete initiatives of simplification followed by digitalization*

- Simplification and operationalization of IT solutions to digitalize 11 public services — 5 for citizens and 6 for the business sector (conducted by the General Secretariat of the Government) in areas such as transport, agriculture, environment and labour.
- Digital one-stop-shops
<https://mmhub.mmuncii.ro>
<https://hub.mai.gov.ro/>
- Governmental Cloud
<https://www.adr.gov.ro/cloudul-guvernamental/>
- Simplification and digitalization of key public services
<https://www.econsulat.ro/>
<https://myportal.onrc.ro/home>
https://www.anaf.ro/anaf/internet/ANAF/despre_anaf/strategii_anaf/proiecte_digitalizare/e.factura
- Digital identity for citizens
<https://www.roeid.ro/>

Burden reduction targets

Trying to match the EU ambition in the area of simplifying, Romania is currently preparing the Better Regulation Strategy (2026 – 2028) in which annual simplification plans are included. The objective is to reduce compliance costs for businesses and citizens by approximately 20% by 2028. A project supporting this objective was submitted under TSI.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

According to Government Decision no. 137/2020, the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG) coordinates better regulation reform measures. Its responsibilities include leading interinstitutional efforts to strengthen the capacity of central authorities in developing, implementing, and monitoring strategies, public policies, and legislation, as well as providing methodological support to central institutions and authorities in the areas of public policy and reducing bureaucracy. GSG also coordinates the implementation of the Better Regulation Strategy, in which simplification is one of the main pillars.

Conducting simplification initiatives as well as calculating compliance costs are the responsibility of each ministry, which must ensure calculation when it comes to stock legislation or describe and quantify them in the RIA form in case of new legislation.

At the same time, the Government has established a core group of ministries and other relevant institutions to oversee and coordinate e-governance and bureaucracy reduction - The Committee for e-Governance and Burden Reduction. The prime minister is the chair of the Committee, while the General Secretariat of the Government provides the technical secretariat/support.

In order to improve stakeholders' engagement in the area of simplification, the Consultative Consortium was created in 2023 to support burden reduction efforts. This body facilitates dialogue and cooperation with civil society organizations, citizen representatives, and the business community. Regular consultations are conducted with businesses, SMEs, and sectoral associations to actively involve them in the burden reduction process. These consultations help identify and target the domains they consider most burdensome.

Legislation subject to quantification

According to Government Decision No. 443/2022, quantification applies to national legislation, including acts transposing EU legislation.

Quantification of different costs

Compliance costs are mandatory in the assessment of regulatory impacts, according to Government Decision No. 443/2022. This decision establishes the framework for calculating and reporting compliance costs, ensuring a transparent and comparable evaluation of the economic impact of regulations.

Quantification thresholds

No, Romania does not apply a threshold for quantifying business economic costs.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Ministries are required to carry out ex-ante quantifications of business compliance costs for national legislation, which are included in the explanatory memorandum of draft legislation. Regarding ex-post assessments, the GSG has developed guidelines for line ministries to support the implementation of regulatory burden reduction measures, including tools and methods such as Burden Hunting, Regulatory Guillotine, and Compliance Cost measurement, in order to support the process of burden reduction. While legislative and methodological instruments are in place, the practice vary from one ministry to another.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Romania does not separately quantify the business economic costs specifically generated by gold-plating. However, the Romanian legislative procedure includes several safeguards that ensure national measures do not go beyond EU requirements without proper justification.

First, all draft national acts that transpose EU legislation must include a mandatory concordance table, as required under Government Decision no. 561/2009, which compares each article of the EU act with the corresponding national provision. The table must identify any differences between EU requirements and the proposed national measures, provide justifications whenever the national draft includes additional requirements or deviates from the EU text and be attached to the explanatory memorandum and submitted to the General Secretariat of the Government (GSG).

Second, draft acts containing EU-relevant provisions must be sent to the Department for European Affairs as the penultimate approving authority, ensuring an additional layer of verification that no unnecessary or disproportionate obligations are introduced during transposition.

Furthermore, Romania has institutional safeguards and procedural requirements derived from the Government Memorandum of 4 May 2011 on timely and accurate transposition of EU directives, which include:

- Early identification of institutional responsibility for transposition
- Clear and realistic transposition calendars
- Early preparation of the single concordance table for each directive
- Constant coordination between all authorities sharing transposition responsibilities
- Rigorous monitoring and reporting of the transposition process.

These mechanisms ensure transparency, consistency, and oversight throughout the transposition process and help prevent or justify any measures that could amount to gold-plating, thus minimizing unnecessary regulatory or economic burdens on businesses.

Methodology and digital tools

To simplify existing legislation, the GSG developed guidelines for line ministries to support the implementation of regulatory burden–reduction measures, such as Burden Hunting, the Regulatory Guillotine, and Compliance Cost Measurement. The GSG also trained more than 100 public servants across seven-line ministries to apply these simplification methods in line with the new guidelines. In addition, the GSG carried out six case studies demonstrating how each methodology can be implemented.

The Standard Cost Model was applied on a large scale between 2012 and 2014 but has not been used since.

Looking ahead, the GSG plans to develop a compliance cost calculator that integrates an AI-powered tool. This tool will enable public employees to assess compliance costs more quickly and accurately, streamlining processes and supporting better decision-making. The development of this calculator is one of the objectives of the APTA project (Public Administration through Advanced Technologies), which has been approved for funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and has a four-year implementation timeline.

<https://sgg.gov.ro/1/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Comunicat-de-presa-demarare-proiect-APTA.pdf>

Slovakia

Current burden reduction initiatives

Slovakia has implemented multiple measures and initiatives under the Recovery and resilience plan (RRP), including 1in2out principle (mechanism for reducing the bureaucracy and costs), ex-post evaluations (there two types - systematic evaluation and in-depth evaluation of the regulations), the prevention of gold-plating and adoption of anti-bureaucratic packages, to simplify the regulatory environment and enhance predictability of the law system. Slovakia still continues in applying the majority of these measures and principles even if the RRP is slowly coming to its end. Also, a special platform for the businesses where they can submit their proposals to adjust the legislation has been created.

Link: <https://zlepsipodnikanie.mhsr.sk/> (only in Slovak language).

Currently Slovakia is working on reform of the impact assessment system (RIA process), with the aim to make multiple changes to make the process more effective. Planning is underway to set up a threshold to determine whether a simplified or full RIA is required, to re-define the institutional framework, to improve the processes (consultation process, evaluation of the impacts), to streamline the templates for the analyses and also to include the lessons learned from the previous period.

In cooperation with the OECD, the reform will also include the application of behavioural insights, ensuring that the proposed methodological and procedural adjustments reflect behavioural aspects relevant to the regulatory environment. This approach will be introduced on a pilot basis, with the aim of assessing its added value for the overall quality and effectiveness of the RIA process.

Furthermore, there is currently a process of creating a digital platform for conducting the RIA processes and it goes hand in hand with the above-mentioned reform.

Burden reduction targets

Firstly, the Slovak targets, which were set up in the RPP - 250 ex post evaluations of the regulations with the impact on business environment (the number is for the whole period of the RPP, not yearly), 300 measures approved within the anti-bureaucratic packages to reduce the burden and red-tape for the entrepreneurs, 40 proposals examined per year to prevent the Gold-plating. We set up specific targets for these measures also for the next years of current government's leadership - 20 ex post evaluations per year, 100% of materials with transposition of the EU law examined in order to avoid Gold-plating, 5% increase of the materials with the quantified impact on business environment.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Responsibility for the quantification holds the legislator (individual ministry) that introduces the new legislation. The department of the improvement of business environment cooperates with the legislator and provides maximum support while calculating the impacts. The department has established a template for the analyses and a special calculator for the impacts with detailed guidelines. For quantification, the standard cost model is used, the legislators are pushed to describe the qualitative impacts of the legislation proposed.

Legislation subject to quantification

In the Slovak republic, all types of the national legislation, either primary (laws) or secondary (e.g. governmental regulations), are subject to quantification, if the impact on businesses has been identified. Of course, the quantification must be objectively possible, otherwise the legislator is asked to describe the impacts and ask for the qualitative evaluation.

EU legislation – even before the EU legislation is approved by the European bodies, a preliminary statement is prepared where the impacts are described however rarely calculated. But when there is a transposition of directive or implementation of regulation into national law, an analysis and calculation of the impacts is required.

Quantification of different costs

The following types of costs are subject to quantification: sanctions, fines, taxes, tariffs, fees that reduce negative externalities, other fees, administrative costs, indirect financial costs.

Quantification thresholds

Currently, a threshold is not applied and as it is mentioned above, the process of setting up a threshold is underway. The only rule, which apply now, is to consider whether the proposal has any of the impacts evaluated in the Slovak Republic or not. The following impacts must be examined and considered by the legislators:

- Impact on the state budget
- Social impacts
- Impact on environment
- Impact on businesses
- Impact on digitalization
- Impact on public services for the citizens
- Impact on marriage, parenthood and family

If the legislator identifies an impact at least in one of these areas, the legislator must fill in the analyses and undergo the whole RIA process. Regarding to impacts on business environment even if there is a small impact (e.g. 10 000€), the whole RIA process must be conducted, and analysis has to be done.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Both ex-ante and ex-post quantifications are carried out when it is possible, because one of the biggest problems is lack of data.

The most optimal scenario is when we dispose with both of the calculations for the regulation – from ex-ante stage and also from ex-post stage, so the calculations of the costs and savings expected in ex-ante stage is comparable.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

Since 2023, Slovakia has been applying the measures to eliminate un-justified Gold-plating, and legislators are confronted if the Gold-plating in the proposed legislation is identified. If the legislator does not remove

the Gold-plating, it is stipulated in the analysis so everyone can find the information. And of course, such regulations are also subject to quantification.

However, the situation and costs of the regulation is not compared when there is and there is not the Gold-plating.

Methodology and digital tools

In general, the Standard cost model is utilised. A special calculator to carry out the quantification – for ex-ante and for ex-post quantifications, have been developed.

Slovenia

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. *De-bureaucratisation packages of laws (2021–2022)*

The Slovenian government has adopted extensive legislative changes that have simplified procedures for businesses and citizens. The second package amended 25 laws, reducing the number of forms, shortening deadlines and introducing digital solutions.

Below are some of the key simplifications and reductions in administrative burdens.

- Regulation of the legal basis for linking official records, where authorities obtain data ex officio and no longer request it from parties in proceedings (register of drivers with a record of penalty points; verification of data in the register of driving licences when issuing international driving licences; The National Assembly independently obtains personal data from the collections of the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute of Slovenia; direct linking of the tax register with other registers; access by the EKO Fund to the records necessary for deciding on applications; linking the databases of the Financial Administration with the databases maintained in accordance with the law governing the registration of real estate and the law governing the mass valuation of real estate; digitisation of notarial services with remote access to notaries).
- Establishment of electronic records with the aim of shortening administrative procedures (Sopotnik – IT tool for communication with customers for the area monitoring system; Mining Book – IT collection of mining procedures; establishment of information systems for electricity and gas operators for the submission of applications by beneficiaries; establishment of a link to the national portal for business entities and self-employed persons (SPOT) and the national e-Government portal for citizens).
- Simplifications in the area of electronic identification (digital student ID card in SI and EN versions; taxpayers who are not based in Slovenia no longer need to identify themselves for VAT purposes in Slovenia if they only supply goods and services that are taxed in Slovenia to recipients of goods and services who are identified for VAT purposes in Slovenia; simplified method of regulating civil law relationships via a direct secure video link with a notary performing a public service; when purchasing gas oil for agricultural purposes, the beneficiary shall identify themselves with a unique identification number and personal document; to download documents from the e-Tax portal, the taxpayer no longer needs a qualified digital certificate).
- Reduction of the administrative burden (administrative approval of legal transactions is no longer required and the delivery of administrative documents has been simplified by means of ordinary delivery).
- Abolition of administrative obligations (the obligation for taxpayers submitting a VAT return for the first time to submit a list of invoices received and issued with their VAT return has been abolished); the declaration for the assessment of income tax prepayments for income from employment or pensions is no longer limited to one year, so the declaration does not have to be submitted every year if there is no significant change of more than 10%; the submission of tax withholding returns is only in electronic form for natural persons who employ one or more employees).

2. *Stop Bureaucracy Portal*

Since 2014, it has enabled companies and citizens to submit initiatives for the removal of administrative barriers. With the aim of improving both the legislative and business environment, the Ministry of Public Administration is implementing numerous activities aimed at reducing bureaucracy, including the Stop Bureaucracy project.

Interested parties (business associations, companies and citizens) can submit proposals for the removal of administrative burdens and the improvement of regulations at any time via the STOP Bureaucracy portal and submit comments on draft regulations via the E-democracy portal.

In order to raise awareness of the importance of cooperation and increase the involvement of both experts and the wider public in decision-making, Slovenia is also carrying out intensive promotional activities to encourage the wider public to participate.

With the aim of strengthening economic growth, increasing the competitiveness of companies and establishing a stable and attractive business environment, in 2013 the Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted a Single Collection of Measures for a Better Legislative and Business Environment and Increased Competitiveness (hereinafter: Single Collection of Measures). At the same time as adopting the Single Collection of Measures, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia established a permanent interministerial working group and tasked an operational working group within it with reporting annually on the activities carried out and the implementation of measures.

The measures are formulated on the basis of initiatives submitted by the general public via the STOP Bureaucracy portal or other channels for submitting proposals, and after adoption by the responsible ministry, they are transformed into concrete measures (deadlines for implementation, responsible and participating bodies, potential savings, regular reports on the status of implementation to the Government of the Republic of Slovenia). Coordination with the competent ministries is carried out by the Ministry of Public Administration. The public can also monitor the implementation of measures to reduce the legislative burden and improve the business environment on the website Single Collection of Measures.

Currently, 62 measures that contribute to a better legislative and business environment and increased competitiveness and were implemented between 2022 and 2025 using the SCM (Standard Cost Model) is being systematically evaluated. Fifty-one evaluations have already been completed, of which 16 are quantitative and 35 are qualitative (the evaluators estimate that it is not possible to calculate the savings in monetary terms). The estimated savings from the quantitative evaluations amount to EUR 20,702,181. The final report will be available by the end of 2025. Below are some specific measures.

- Simplification of reporting on cash transfers between countries
- Establishment of the Smart Inspector application
- IT support for viewing the criminal points register (EKT)
- Taking into account insurance company guarantees for the insurance of toll payment obligations
- Simplification of the production of personal documents at administrative units
- Service for obtaining an electronic blood donation certificate on the SPOT portal

3. Action plan for improving the process of planning, preparing, adopting and evaluating the effects of legislation

This is a plan of measures with which the government aims to fill gaps and eliminate individual horizontal and systemic shortcomings in the processes of planning, preparing and adopting regulations.

With the help of OECD recommendations for optimising the situation in the area of adopting and monitoring regulations, which were made as part of the review of regulatory policies in Slovenia in 2018, and the identified violations of the Resolution on Normative Activity, a select working group of representatives of the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, representatives of the Government Office for Legislation and representatives of the Ministry of Public Administration prepared a proposal for measures to improve the situation in the field of normative activity. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the measures on 25 July 2019 in the form of an Action Plan for Improving the Process of Planning, Preparing, Adopting and Evaluating the Effects of Legislation 2019–2022.

The Action Plan offers solutions which, as a common denominator of the entire process of preparing and adopting legislation in the broadest sense, can overcome the obstacles common to all drafters of regulations. It covers the entire cycle, i.e. from planning to evaluating legislation, and also emphasises the need for continuous and in-depth training of public servants in this area. The current results include:

- Adopted methodology for preparing impact assessments and ex-post evaluations
- Methodology implemented in the MOPED IT system (modular framework for the preparation of electronic documents, mandatory for use at the beginning of 2026)
- Specification of objectives, indicators and deadlines for the evaluation of regulations and IT support for ex-post evaluations
- Establishment of a training system for regulators and commencement of training this year
- Implementation of the ŽIVA application, which supports the collection and consideration of comments on the implementation of applicable legislation (currently in use at Ministry of justice; in 2026 will be prepared for use for all ministries).

Burden reduction targets

Since the completion of the -25% project in 2016, Slovenia has set itself the goal of reducing administrative barriers by €18 million per year as part of the new STOP Bureaucracy project. The achievement of the target is reviewed each year through evaluation reports on the measures implemented from the Single Collection of Measures. At least 10 evaluation reports are prepared annually, reviewing the effects based on the SCM methodology. The European project was completed in 2023, but the objective remained part of the regular work in the field of better legislation and reducing administrative burdens. All the mechanisms introduced through last finished projects remain in place as regular work.

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

The calculations of the measures implemented within the framework of the Single Collection of Measures are prepared by the Ministry of Public Administration together with the competent authorities, which provide assistance in terms of content and knowledge databases. At the end of the report preparation, the competent ministry that implemented the measure confirms the final coordinated version. The Ministry of Public Administration also assists the competent authorities in preparing ex-ante evaluation reports.

In the area of preparing regulations, calculations or qualifications of economic burdens for companies are prepared separately by each ministry responsible for the regulation. In doing so, the ministries are assisted by the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport and the Ministry of Public Administration. Such calculations

have been mandatory since 2017 as part of the SME test application for all draft regulations (preliminary assessment of economic impact). From 2026, the new IT system (MOPED) will be mandatory for all regulators, with a revamped, optimised and more user-friendly section for assessing economic impact.

Legislation subject to quantification

The preparation of economic impact assessments is mandatory for all laws under the regular and fast-track procedures. For laws under the urgent procedure, this assessment is carried out as a subsequent evaluation two years after adoption.

Quantification of different costs

- Direct financial costs (examples: taxes, contributions, duties, charges and fines)
- Indirect financial costs are divided into:
 - Actual indirect costs that result from obligations concerning the purchase/adaptation/maintenance of goods and services and serve the direct realisation of the public interest.
 - Administrative indirect costs result from information obligations (IO) (keeping records, reporting, sending, copying, distributing, completing forms) concerning the submission of information to state authorities or third parties.

Quantification thresholds

No, administrative costs are defined according to the same requirement, regardless of the amount.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Yes. A more detailed description is provided above. Please see the answers in '*Burden reduction targets*' and '*Responsibility*'.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

During the preparation of regulations, we at the Ministry of Public Administration also pay attention to this aspect in inter-ministerial discussions and, if any exceeding of EU requirements is detected, there is given a negative opinion with key comments to the drafters of the regulations.

Methodology and digital tools

The SCM is used (adopted in Slovenia in 2009), which has been available to users in digital form since 2017 (questionnaire with calculation). Next year, in 2026, users will have access to a revamped, optimised questionnaire, which was created during the revision of the Methodology for Impact Assessments of Effects on Various Social Areas.

Spain

Current burden reduction initiatives

The OECD, sponsored by the EU, has recently published a report on better regulation, which identifies Spain's efforts to reduce administrative burdens through a policy of consultation and collaboration with stakeholders.

The General State Administration seeks to address unnecessary administrative burdens through collaboration agreements with key stakeholder organisations: in a nutshell, chamber of commerce, business associations, third sector economy confederation, and self-employment and entrepreneurship representants.

These bring together their members and government representatives through workshops and discussion forums to identify burdens and propose specific opportunities for simplification.

More than 2,100 concrete, quantified, Standard Cost Model-based proposals for reducing burdens and cutting red tape for businesses have been received through these agreements since 2008. Each year, proposals receive specific feedback on each of them from competent units across the Spanish central administration as well as some are informed by regional authorities, too.

Link for more info: [Portal MTDFP | Agreements with organizations](#) (automatically translated to English)

Burden reduction finder tool: A way of looking at burdens reduced by the successful implementation of these agreements, [SimplexESP - Propuestas de simplificación administrativa - Simplificación administrativa y Reducción de cargas](#)

Burden reduction targets

Currently no target is being implemented as in the 25-35% burden reduction target set by the COM. However, this kind of project was implemented in the past. 30% burden reduction target, dating back to 2008. See: [01 Acuerdo 27 06 2008.pdf](#)

Reducing business administrative burdens is believed to be an ongoing duty rather than an on-off set of actions. Nonetheless, the commitment to avoid a net increase of administrative burdens is upheld through the annual assessment and publication of the One-In, One-Out report at the State Administration level. Administrative burdens for businesses, generated by new rules at the central State level, are offset through new regulations reducing burdens for companies and the implementation on annual simplification and burden reduction plans made in each Ministerial department. Overall goal and monitoring each year. Some pieces of regulation are exempt from the application of One-in, One-out principle. See: [Portal MTDFP | Compensation of administrative burdens. One in - one out](#)

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

On a broader sense, there is a unit in each department (Ministry) with assigned competences on administrative simplification - Service Inspectorates.

When burdens come from the drafting of new regulations, those units responsible for the drafting of the regulation have the duty to quantify administrative burdens for companies and/or citizens, while making the RIAs next to the regulation.

In addition to that, Directorate General for Public Governance has cross-departmental competences to support burden reduction and, in doing so, does a review of all drafted regulations that may indeed have an impact on administrative burdens, hence reviewing the RIAs and checking if the quantification of burdens is correct or not.

Legislation subject to quantification

All types of national State-based legislation and regulation - from Laws, Royal Decrees to Ministerial Orders.

EU-regulation drafts are subject to comments, but quantification is a duty for those drafting national legal texts.

Quantification of different costs

Administrative costs are subject to quantification. There is a list of possible burdens and its cost. See: [GUIA METODOLOGICA AIN](#)

Quantification thresholds

No thresholds are applied, all possible burdens created or reduced must be quantified on new regulation drafts, whether big or small.

On economic impacts in general, there is no threshold either. However, on minor drafts, it can be argued that there is not a real, substantial economic impact.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Ex-ante quantification of burdens is compulsory through the making of RIAs where impact on burdens must be assessed.

Even if not an explicit ex-post policy, the agreements with business' associations can be regarded as an ex-post assessment in order to better detect pain points and problems counting on business real-life implementation of regulation experience.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

There is no specific Gold-plating mechanism to detect, assess or quantify the costs connected to this Gold-plating, but the issue remains a growing concern and somehow, Gold-plating is subject to episodic assessment when reviewing RIAs and draft laws.

Methodology and digital tools

A simplified version of SCM is used and hence, there is no need to use complex calculators or AI for the task of simply quantifying burdens on companies.

Annual Administrative burden costs = unit cost of a certain burden (e.g. sending and online application has an estimated cost of 5€ -a paper-based one would be 80€) x Population affected by this obligation x number of times this duty must be fulfilled.

However, D.G. Public Governance offers counsel and tips on doing so when making RIAs.

Sweden

Current burden reduction initiatives

1. E-guidance through the standard industrial classification code (NACE)

A test service pilot on verksam.se (the Swedish business portal) that enables entrepreneurs to select the relevant industry and the municipality in which the company will operate and receive a list of all permits, notifications, approvals and other procedures that may affect the establishment of the company. Companies are also guided to understand whether they are subject to permit or notification requirements in certain procedures and to get direct contact with the right authority to deepen their knowledge of a particular procedure or begin the application process. The first version of the service contains around 50 industries within primary production and mining. At the turn of 2025/2026, the service will be scaled up to 180 industries while improving the user experience.

For further information: <https://verksam.se/bransch/hitta-tillstand/tillstand-anmalning-registrering>

2. Generative AI in the food sector

Entrepreneurs state that it is often difficult to find and to understand information about regulations, requirements and risks and that they are not sufficiently adapted to one's own business. Against this background, the "VarmRätt" project was initiated and conducted in close collaboration with the Swedish Food Agency. The focus is on evaluating and testing generative AI to explore and learn what is required of an authority in order to, in the future, develop trustworthy and accurate AI services that make it easier for entrepreneurs. The aim has been to create increased understanding and knowledge of the technology's usability, opportunities and challenges, but also what conditions must be in place to create value.

For further information: [The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth](https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2025/02/okad-kunskap-om-artificiell-intelligens-ska-forenkla-for-foretag/)

3. One-stop-shop

A model for collaboration between governmental agencies and other actors aiming to reduce regulatory burdens in both direct/ short-term and long-term by addressing the issue from a business' perspective and burdens at the centre.

For further information:

<https://tillvaxtverket.se/tillvaxtverket/seminarierochnatverk/natverkochochsamverkan/allanatverk/onestopmyndighetsshop.6748.html>

4. AI for simplification

This project aims to investigate how AI can be used in public agencies to reduce burdens, e.g. by identifying overlapping requirements, technical lock-ins and unnecessary burdens.

For further information: <https://www.regeringen.se/pressmeddelanden/2025/02/okad-kunskap-om-artificiell-intelligens-ska-forenkla-for-foretag/>

5. 11 agencies have been assigned to review and simplify regulations in order to reduce the regulatory burden for business

For further information: <https://www.regeringen.se/regeringsuppdrag/2024/07/uppdrag-att-forenkla-regelverk-i-syfte-att-minska-regelbordan-for-foretag/>

6. The Simplification Council

Established as a permanent body in 2024 to propose simplification measures reducing regulatory burdens, incl. all types of compliance costs, for businesses.

For further information: <https://forenklingsradet.se/>

7. The Implementation Council

Established as a temporary committee (2024-2027) to assist government in reducing regulatory burdens for businesses in connection to EU legislation. The Council provides analyses to government ahead of EU negotiations as well as in the implementation phase.

For further information: <https://implementeringsradet.se/>

Burden reduction targets

“Business regulatory costs shall over time decrease as a share of GDP and then be lower than in the surrounding world.” (The government’s objective since 2021, <https://www.regeringen.se/rattsliga-dokument/skrivelse/2021/09/skr.-2021223>, still valid but likely to be rephrased in the near future).

Quantification of business economic costs

Responsibility

Every individual authority/ministry responsible for drafting legislation is also responsible to assess the impacts ex ante, including quantification of burdens for business ([regulation \(2024:183\)](#) on impact assessment).

The Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is responsible for annual follow-up of overall regulatory costs, as calculated in the impact assessments, on an ex-ante basis.

There is no systematic ex post evaluation of the regulatory burdens, neither at individual authority/ministry or central level.

Legislation subject to quantification

National legislation, including implementation of EU directives ([regulation \(2024:183\)](#) on impact assessment). There is no explicit legal requirement of quantification/calculation of regulatory costs for business for proposed EU legislation, although there is a general requirement to assess the impacts of the proposal.

Quantification of different costs

All types of compliance costs, including administrative costs, as well as opportunity costs.

Quantification thresholds

No threshold.

Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

Systematic ex-ante, ad hoc ex-post.

Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

There is a requirement (in the regulation on impact assessment) to motivate why proposed national measures go beyond EU requirements, when this is proposed. And there is a requirement to calculate business costs. The latter does not stipulate calculation of estimated costs of the over-implementation, although this is encouraged.

There are non-binding guidance and principles for what constitutes over-implementation. There is also a general political statement not to over-implement if this is negative for business.

Methodology and digital tools

The standard cost model is frequently used, as is cost benefit analysis. A burden calculator was developed in 2015, which is used by certain regulators, although the extent and frequency of its use remain unclear. There are currently efforts in conducting a preliminary study aimed at developing the burden calculator. The goal is to link certain statistical databases to the tool and establish standardised values or templates that regulators can use as a basis for calculating impacts. There are also pilots to use AI, but yet not generally and systematically used.

Annex – Questionnaire

Question 1: Examples: Current burden reduction initiatives

- Please provide the names of current initiatives, along with brief descriptions, links, and a point of contact if available.

Question 2: Burden reduction targets

- Please indicate whether your administration has set any targets for reducing business economic or administrative burdens and describe them if applicable.

Question 3: Responsibility for quantification of burdens

- Please describe or indicate who is responsible for calculating or quantifying business economic burdens — for example, a central coordination unit within the administration, or the individual ministries/offices drafting the legislation.

Question 4: What types of legislation are subject to quantification?

- Please indicate what type of legislation is subject to quantification regarding business economic costs. E.g. national legislation, EU-regulations, EU-directives, EU level 2-regulations.

Question 5: Quantification of different costs

- What type of business economic costs are subject to quantification? E.g. administrative, compliance, or other types of business economic costs?

Question 6: Quantification thresholds

- When deciding whether to quantify business economic costs in legislation, do you apply a threshold? If yes, what is the threshold, and does it vary depending on the type of costs? (administrative, compliance etc.). Please convert to Euros if necessary.

Question 7: Ex-ante and Ex-post quantification

- Do you carry out ex-ante and/or ex-post quantifications of the business economic impacts of legislation?

Question 8: Over-implementation (Gold-plating)

- Please describe whether and how you assess or quantify the business economic costs arising from national measures that go beyond EU requirements (gold-plating). Do you work with any kind of safeguarding? E.g. principles, approvals etc.?

Question 9: Methodology and digital tools

- What methods do you use for quantifying business economic costs? E.g. the Standard Cost Model, Cost Benefit Analysis etc. Do you use any digital tools to lighten the work, such as a burden calculator or AI?