

Better Regulation in the European Union: Key Principles, Concepts and Practices

8 October - 30 November 2012

Introduction

OBJECTIVES

As **Better Regulation** – the strategy to simplify and improve the regulatory environment for citizens and businesses - continues to be a key priority for politicians and public administrations at all levels of government in and beyond the European Union, it is becoming increasingly important for public officials, businesses, NGOs and social movements, to understand what Better Regulation is about and what it is likely to mean for them.

By the end of this interactive online seminar, participants will understand:

- why Better Regulation has been highlighted as a key policy priority in the European Union institutions and Member States;
- the key principles underlying the development of Better Regulation strategies across the European Union;
- the potential opportunities and challenges to public administrations and stakeholders from introducing and applying Better Regulation practices across Government;
- how the main Better Regulation practices are being applied in the EU institutions and in Member States, and the lessons learned from their application.

Given that Better Regulation affects all policy areas, the seminar will be important for officials from most Ministries and agencies, particularly those who are required to work with Better Regulation tools and approaches, such as Impact Assessment, Simplification, and measurement of Administrative Burden. It will also be of interest to stakeholder groups and policy researchers.

METHODOLOGY

The programme will be offered as an online seminar. The participants receive a **password-based** access to EIPA web pages where they can **view** or **download**:

- video recordings of presentations by various experts on different aspects of Better Regulation. The recordings will be drawn from existing courses offered in Maastricht and additional recordings will be made specifically for INAP purposes
- recorded interviews with stakeholders and Better Regulation experts
- PowerPoint presentations of the recorded lectures
- supporting documents and materials, which will allow the participants to deepen their understanding of Better Regulation techniques.

The participants will receive requests for two written assignments a few weeks after registering for the course. The assignments will focus on Better Regulation efforts and challenges in Spain. The participants will be required:

- to do group and independent research on Better Regulation in Spain
- to post their assignment results online on the EIPA web pages
- to review and comment on the contributions of the other participants

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The participants will then be invited to two online ***discussion sessions***, during which:

- the results of the group exercises, focussed on the Spanish context, will be reported and discussed
- the project coordinator (Dr Theo Jans) will be available to address all the questions of participants

In addition to the scheduled online discussion sessions, EIPA staff will be available to address any practical, and other, issues that the participants may have.

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Programme

- * **Welcome & Introduction**
Theo Jans, Senior Lecturer, EIPA, Maastricht (NL)

MODULE 1: BETTER REGULATION IN THE EU

- * **Better Regulation Principles, Concepts and Actions I**
Theo Jans
- * **Better Regulation Principles, Concepts and Actions II**
Theo Jans

MODULE 2: HIGH LEVEL EXPERT GROUP ON ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN

- * **The High Level Expert Group on Administrative burden (the Stoiber Group). A critical perspective on Better Regulation in the EU.**
Jim Murray, Member of the Stoiber Group and former Director of the European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC)
- * **Better Regulation: What's at stake for stakeholders?**
Alan Hardacre, Lecturer, EIPA, Maastricht (NL)
- * **Where and How Administrative Burden Reduction Proposals?**
Erik Akse, DG Markt, European Commission

MODULE 3: IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN THE EU

- * **Impact Assessments in the EU policy process**
Robert Scharrenborg, SG, European Commission, Brussels
- * **Consultation and deliberation in EC policy preparation**
Irina Tanasescu, SG, European Commission, Brussels

MODULE 4: CONSULTATION IN THE EU

- * **European Business Test Panel**
Erik Akse, DG Markt, European Commission
- * **The use of Scientific Expertise and Agencies**
Cosimo Monda, Senior Lecturer, EIPA, Maastricht (NL)

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MODULE 5: IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LEGISLATION

- * **Implementation, transposition and Better Regulation**

Michael Kaeding, Lecturer, EIPA, Maastricht (NL)

MODULE 6: NATIONAL BETTER REGULATION MODELS

- * **Lessons from The Netherlands**

Brian Huijts, Regulatory Reform Group, The Hague (NL)

- * **The future of Smart Regulation in The Netherlands**

Brian Huijts, Regulatory Reform Group, The Hague (NL)

- * **Administrative Simplification in Belgium**

Kris Blancke, Agency for Administrative Simplification, Brussels (BE)

- * **Lessons from the Low Countries**

Theo Jans

- * **The UK Better Regulation efforts**

Alan Hardacre

EXERCISES

- * **A SWOT analysis of the Better Regulation tool-box**

Theo Jans & Alan Hardacre

- * **Building a Better Regulation strategy in Spain**

Theo Jans & Alan Hardacre

The exercises have been created especially for the INAP online seminar as a means to solidify the online learning experience through practical and relevant work. The objective is that these exercises should be completed by the participant after having reviewed all of the online material, both visual and reading. The exercises will ask the participant to mobilise the knowledge gained through the online materials to help them attain a better, more practical understanding of Better Regulation and its possible applications and implications.

Each of the two exercises will require about 2 hours of work on behalf of the participant and both should result in a one/two-page summary (in English) that should be uploaded to the EIPA Online Campus for the 'Online Discussion Sessions'. These summaries will subsequently form the basis of presentations and group discussions between EIPA staff and participants.