

eREGULATIONS AND eREGISTRATIONS SYSTEMS

SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES TO IMPROVE NATIONAL BUSINESS, INVESTMENT AND TRADE CLIMATES

GLOBAL CONTEXT

Facilitating business through simplified administrative procedures reduces informality and corruption, empowers small entrepreneurs, removes bureaucratic barriers to trade and investment and increases government revenue, thereby fostering enterprise creation and operation. It also increases competitiveness and ultimately contributes to economic growth. UNCTAD estimates that administrative and procedural transaction costs, excluding customs-related costs, constitute between 3 and 6 per cent of the value of internationally traded goods. There are thus opportunities for reductions in transaction costs and hence increased competitiveness.

UNCTAD's Business Facilitation Programme aims at seizing such opportunities and offers a series of efficient tools and interactive methodologies to clarify and simplify procedures. Applied sequentially, they comprise an integrated programme for the modernization of public administration.

HOW DO E-TOOLS HELP BUSINESS REGULATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS?

UNCTAD's Business Facilitation Programme offers a series of efficient tools and participative methodologies to clarify and simplify procedures. Aiming at producing quick and measurable results, the Business Facilitation Programme includes three sequential components: eRegulations, eSimplifications and eRegistrations. The tools are developed at the request of beneficiary Governments.

The eRegulations system is an affordable, turn-key solution for Governments to clarify and publicize administrative procedures on the Internet. It shows administrative procedures step by step from the user's point of view. For each step, it provides the following data: contact data (entity, office, person in charge), the expected result of the step, required documents, cost, duration, legal justification and ways to complain. Any type of administrative procedure can be clarified through an eRegulations portal (e.g. company creation, tax payment, import and export).

Once clarified, procedures are easier to simplify, by comparing the practice to the law and limiting the number of interactions and documents to what is necessary and sufficient. UNCTAD's

PROGRAMME FACTS AND FIGURES

Programme start date: 2005

Number of countries assisted per year:
6 (average)

Programme coverage:
44 eRegulations systems and 4 eRegistrations
systems implemented in 28 countries in Africa,
Asia and Latin America

Programme website:
unctad.org/Business-Facilitation

