

2016 Work Programme on Better Regulation

At the start of the 18th legislative term, the Federal Government adopted the 2014 Work Programme on Better Regulation. The Government's aim remains to make legislation simple, understandable and targeted and to markedly reduce the burdens resulting from legal regulations. Underpinning the Work Programme, the key points for further reducing the bureaucratic burden on SMEs were adopted in late 2014 thus reaffirming this goal. A considerable amount of the Work Programme has already been implemented or is well on the way to being implemented. For the Government, endeavours to reduce compliance costs and continue improving legislative procedures are going to stay on the agenda for some time. The findings of the first round of the "life situation" survey have furthermore indicated that more remains to be done in many fields when it comes to improving the clarity and transparency of regulations, procedures and official forms.

Above and beyond the aforementioned decisions, the German Government is thus launching the following measures to be financed from the budgets of the federal ministries:

I. More burden reductions

- **Reducing the burden on the general public**
 - Revising or re-drafting the administrative regulation on the Housing Benefits Act to increase clarity and transparency of the legislation and procedure
 - Planning an online procedure to apply for parental allowance and devising an implementation plan for the technical inclusion of other family benefits

- Improving availability of information in easy language as well as explanations of official letters and forms for people with learning difficulties or intellectual disability and people with emotional deficiencies with a view to increasing clarity
- Stabilising processes and quality as well as promoting simpler administrative procedures in the Federal Employment Agency:
 - further development of online services within the Federal Employment Agency's portfolio and extension of digital access
 - personal availability through the "Federal Employment Agency on your doorstep" plan
 - introduction of a virtual welcome centre
 - model project "Just do it"
- Further developing the project "Reducing bureaucracy of care documentation" particularly with a view to day-care and short-term care centres and examining the necessity of adapting it in line with the new concept of the need for long-term care
- Extending telematics infrastructure in the healthcare system with the first beneficial applications, in particular patient core data management and medication plan
- Developing a bureaucracy map in the area of responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Defence with a view to
 - providing a structured portrayal of key points of contact with bureaucracy during a career working in this area
 - using the bureaucracy map as an instrument for selection and decision-making to prioritise and steer inner-ministerial bureaucracy reduction and
 - implementing tangible steps to reduce the burden

- Examining potential improvements to selected income tax forms as part of the “form laboratory” in collaboration with the Federal Chancellery project group “Governing effectively”.

- **Reducing the burden on businesses:**

- Drawing up a second Bureaucracy Reduction Act to continue successful steps to reduce bureaucracy for businesses as a result of the first Bureaucracy Reduction Act adopted in 2015. The Act is to be drawn up swiftly so it can be passed by the Bundestag and Bundesrat in the second half of the year meaning the key amendments enter into force in early 2017.

Although further bureaucracy reductions from the spheres of other ministries are to be added, the priorities are currently:

- reform of the point of single contact
 - modernising the Crafts Code
 - in relation to the project to investigate the compliance costs for the current legislative situation on the liability for payment of social security contributions and the simultaneous examination of four alternative models, results of the study performed by the Federal Statistical Office and the National Regulatory Control Council are expected soon. Should, after analysis of the findings, a proposal on the implementation of a new regulation governing liability for payment be presented, this would be reflected in the second Bureaucracy Reduction Act
 - moderate increase of the threshold for invoices for small amounts to 200 euros
- Boosting electronic invoicing (new uniform data format ZUGFeRD)
 - Drawing up the legal basis for the core market data register for the energy industry

- Examining possibilities and limitations of increased use of administrative data in economic statistics as part of a research project
- Considering in what form contacts with the authorities (for example in the case of checks) could be used more actively in the post set-up phase to provide more assistance and advice to young entrepreneurs
- Introducing an internet platform “Social security for employers”
- Examining the cost-effectiveness of reporting on additional contributions by employers to income replacement benefits pursuant to section 23c paragraph 2 Fourth Book of the German Social Code
- Gradual adjustment of notification requirements pursuant to the Act to implement the Capital Requirements Directive IV designed to avoid a double burden for the institutes when complying with the new demands of the ECB reporting system AnaCredit and amendment to national provisions
- Simplifying tenancy law for landlords in the case of modernisation as part of a second law to amend tenancy law
- Reducing obligatory notification and documentation for driving schools, facilitating cooperation between driving schools and revising conditions for admission to the occupation of driving instructor with a view to improving the economic situation of driving schools and combating the shortage of up-and-coming professionals
- Reworking the support principles for the joint EU task for the improvement of agricultural structures and coastal protection to make them more concrete, readable and comprehensible

- **Further improving citizen and business-friendly administration/e-Government:**

- Continuing the project Federal Information Management (FIM) under the co-leadership of Land Saxony-Anhalt to promote efficient and effective administrative action when implementing federal legislation and translating the project into an IT Planning Council application
- Setting up a “federal editing office” to make available FIM-compatible information emanating from federal law to be used at all federal levels
- Setting up a federal portal and planned service portal network taking in all federal levels for the general public and businesses (portal network planned as an IT Planning Council project)
- Setting up and standardising interoperable service accounts for the general public and businesses as central identification and authentication components for all administrative services in Germany
- Modernising excise and transaction tax enforcement by the customs administration (Project MoeVe Zoll 2016): carrying out essential implementation steps to develop an IT excise and transaction tax platform (above all developing basic components and a new, up-to-date IT solution to support working processes in the field of energy tax and electricity tax on the basis of a modern, platform-based IT architecture)
- Examining modernising public notification in the customs administration pursuant to section 10 of the Act on the Administrative Service of Documents by creating an electronic notification portal at Zoll.de (electronic blackboard)
- Considering ways of simplifying project support for non-governmental organisations (private agencies)

II. Improving legislative procedures

The following measures are part of the continuous work to improve legislative procedures at federal level:

- Adding further substance to the long-term project “enhancing the linguistic input”
- “Legal affairs training”

Such training aims to increase the quality of draft laws. Those drafting legal bills are to be trained in modern methods for structured problem-solving, in the use of available scientific findings, in the development of alternatives and empirical testing of effectiveness as well as in evaluation. The ability to draw up more targeted and comprehensible legal texts is to be systematically developed.

- Examining how different research approaches, for example “citizen science”, can be used to gear legislation more clearly to the needs and experiences of those applying the law (general public, businesses, administration)