

**Directors of Better Regulation  
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**A project for assessment of the regulatory impacts on business**

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## The SÄVY Project - background

- The Ministry of Trade and Industry launched a project for assessment of the regulatory impacts on business (SÄVY Project) for 2005-2007.
- The SÄVY Project is connected with the Government's Entrepreneurship Policy Programme – the aim is to improve the regulatory environment through better impact assessment.
- The Project forms a key part of national Better Regulation measures in Finland – for its part, it implements the Lisbon Strategy at the national level.
- The Enterprise Advisory Committee, chaired by the Minister of Trade and Industry, acts as the Monitoring Group of the Project.
- The Project is implemented together with the Ministry of Justice.
- Guidelines for the assessment of the regulatory impacts of legislative proposals on business (Government decision-in-principle) were issued in 1999.

## The SÄVY Project – tasks, responsibilities and mission

- Acts as the *expert unit common to all the ministries* in matters related to assessment of the regulatory impacts on business
  - contact persons appointed at all the ministries;
  - 11 legislative initiatives chosen as pilot projects;
  - continuous support offered to law-drafters
- *Develops methods* for assessing business impacts
  - cooperation with the Government Institute for Economic Research VATT
- Organises regular *contacts between the ministries and the business community*
  - Ministries, stakeholders, economic research institutes have representatives in the Project's support group
- Participates in the *EU and international better regulation activities.*

## The SÄVY Project - central findings and future focus

- Clear room for improvement in business impact assessment and its methods
  - For example, the analysis of business impact assessments included in the Government Bills for the Parliamentary year 2005 showed that 42 % of the Bills relevant for business completely lacked BIA. The BIA's included in the Bills were in most cases qualitative
- Law-drafters need practical BIA examples, support and training
  - Examples from e.g. the pilot legislative projects
  - Training organised
- Impact assessment guidelines should be updated and integrated.
  - Currently: Bill Drafting Instructions (2004), and various specific IA Guidelines (economic, business, environmental, regional development, gender impacts)
  - From 2007 onwards: Bill Drafting Instructions, and integrated, practical IA Guidelines (economic, social and environmental impacts)
    - working party chaired by the Ministry of Justice
    - consideration of necessary support and control for impact assessment

## The SÄVY Project - Further information

- [www.ktm.fi/savy/english](http://www.ktm.fi/savy/english)
- Report from the year 2005 "*Better Legislation – More Competitive Edge*"
  - Stimulating discussion and providing inspiration for improvement