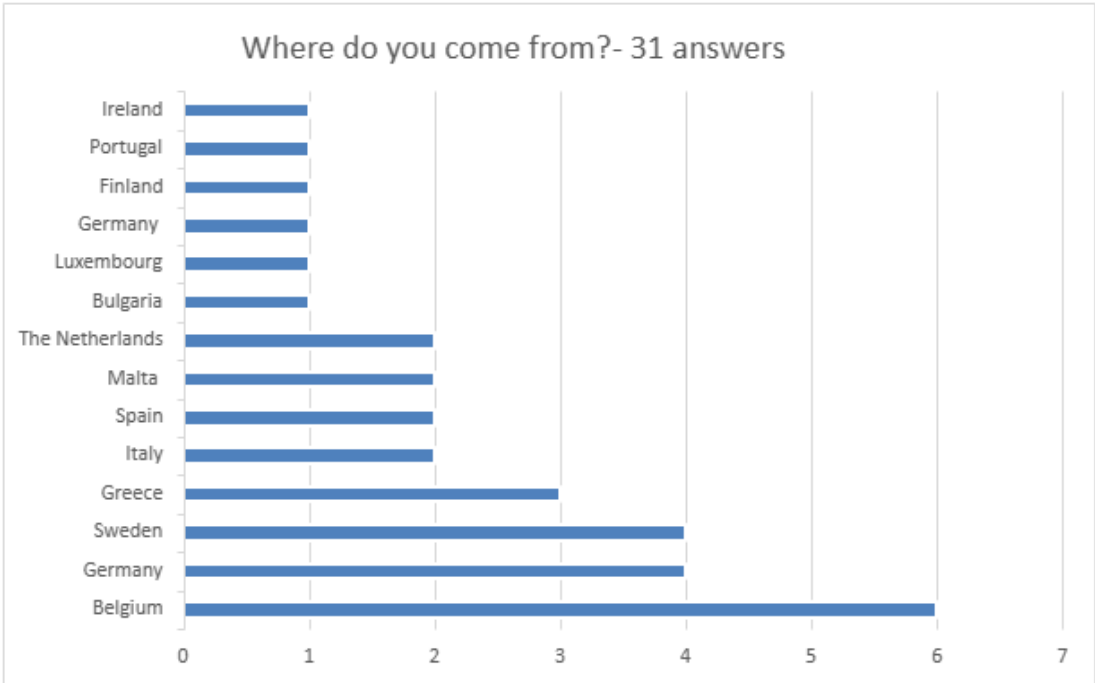


Q&A and Slido polls results



Germany's approach to digital-ready policymaking

Q1: What is the tool you use to model processes?

Currently we are using a variety of tools. Each Ministry has or is providing different software instruments, and we are still finding out the tools that work best for policy makers.

Q2: How easy is it for policymakers to use these tools? Are these tools open source/available?

This varies from ministry to ministry; we observed the use of both open source and closed source tools.

Q3: How did you teach these skills to policy officers?

This is a key component of our workshops. Often policy makers are not used to design techniques, as they often have a legal background, and they need to be guided towards the visualization of complex regulatory issues. However, one of the keys to success focused on explaining how and why it is important to visualize regulations.

Q4: Do you have an English version of the tools?

No, there is no English version at this stage.

Q5: How do you ensure consistent visualisations practices? How/who manages the blueprints and the changes?

Often the regulatory project is at a such early stage that visualisations are treated as individual projects, where one policymaker attempts to draft an initial visualisation. We observed that policy makers need support and help because sometimes they are not used in thinking in such terms.

Q6: How does data reuse data align with privacy acts? Is that an issue when you want to re-use data that was already collected under another policy?

This is of course a delicate issue and often it is important to provide support to policymakers so that they ensure that the data collected under their policy is reusable by other colleagues. We observed a variety of different situation and requirements, so it our advice is to check every specific case and verify how it can be handled in that specific context.

Q7: What about the possibility of using graphics in law proposals? Would it be accepted?

In Germany we already have three visualisations published with the NKR-statement this year. This is part of the cultural change that we are attempting to make in policymaking.

Q8: Are the multi-disciplinary teams within the policy units new to the policy field? One of the challenges is the biases legal people and IT people have against each other. Have you experience of such a gap and how to bridge it?

Bridging the cultural gap is challenging work for everybody involved because we are working on transforming a work culture and transformation is always hard. You need to repeat your message, and this is what we are doing. In the future, we would like to have interdisciplinary teams in the ministries, but we are not there yet.

Q9: Any end-to-end [From incomplete policies to complete implementations] experiences? Any examples on a specific policy from legislation to local implementation?

We would be curious to have those examples. We just started at the beginning of this year. We are really looking forward to having such cases. We need to continue our work for longer time. This would be a key aspect to see where we need to improve our measures.

Q10: How does the team ensure the respect of the Once-Only Principle? Do you have all data of German Government map?

You can find a map of existing public data, currently in development here!

https://www.bva.bund.de/DE/Services/Behoerden/Verwaltungsdienstleistungen/Registermodernisierung/Informationen-Buerger/Registerlandkarte/registerlandkarte_inhalt.html

Q11: How do you go about preserving evidence generated during the formulation of a policy and make it available for next iterations and/or control/replication purposes?

This is something we need to look at, but we have not designed or implemented any measures yet.

DigitalService & BMI (1/2)

0 2 9

In your opinion, how effective is a holistic approach to digital-ready policy-making like the German one?

1 - Not effective at all

0 %

2 - Not effective

0 %

3 - Neutral

7 %

4 - Effective

52 %

5 - Very effective

41 %

What did you like most about the German approach to digital-ready policy-making?



The digital-ready checks@EC

Q1: Business processes are at the heart of this, which business process notation and/or systems do you suggest using?

Check out Camunda and bpmn.io as open-source tools, while in terms of notation we suggest adopting BPMN (Business Process Model and Notation) 2.0.

Q2: It would be interesting to develop such digital-ready checks as open source, with the possibility of expanding and customising it for the different policy domains and related checks. Wouldn't it be useful to get the advice/feedback of assurance/audit bodies of the EU, or other EU institutions and agencies?

We agree on 'open sourcing' – sharing knowledge and let others to think some ideas further is essential. When it comes to a more policy-domain oriented approach, our team would love to have that. At the same time, we are aware of our capacity constraints and the need of policy officers to keep things simple. We know that policy officers need to answer and must fulfil many different requirements, and this adds to the complexity of building a tool that needs to be effective but at the same time it does not put additional burden to the to the policy officer.

Q3: There are a lot of subjects which a policy needs to comply with to be 'good policy', such as interoperability, economic feasibility, sustainability. You would not want to have policy makers fill out 10 surveys on each of the topics. Do you consider combining this tool with other relevant topics / good policy requirements?

At the current stage of development, we are not yet there. However, we also considered this aspect, and we think that this is a key element to keep in mind to ensure the sustainability and the use of such a tool.

Q4: At which moment in the policy process is the tool/survey being used?

The tool should be used in the policy design phase to have the biggest impact. It can come handy during other policy phases too, e.g. when evaluating an existing policy but may need some adjustment to be helpful.

Q5: Which tools are being used for BPMN-modelling? And are policymakers themselves using them or specific experts for modelling?

In the Commission there are no corporate BPMN-modelling tools offered for supporting policy design. We also have the impression that policy officers are not at ease with such tools. So, we face an inspiring challenge on bridging the cultural gap and design proper support.

Q6: Will such checks be verified by the Regulatory Screening Board (RSB)?

At the current stage no. The RSB has started scrutinising the analysis of the digital-by-default principle though and may become interested in the results of the digital-ready checks in the future.

Q7: There is also a risk of co-legislators making changes to the legislation that would affect its digital readiness. Did you take this into consideration?

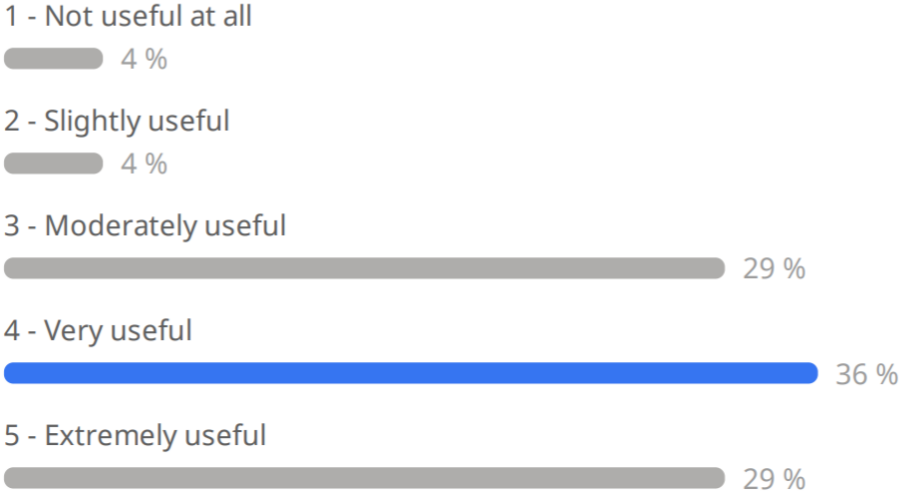
From 2016 there is an interinstitutional agreement on Better Regulation which establishes that whenever there are significant changes proposed by the co-legislators, they need to perform an impact assessment or at least call upon the Commission to do so. In practice, this is rarely performed, but the European Commission recommends the other institutions to pay attention to this requirement.

We expect that the upcoming Interoperable Europe Act will have a positive impact as it will introduce a mandatory Interoperability Assessment in certain cases.

Digital-ready checks@EC (1/5)

0 2 8

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is 'Not useful at all' and 5 is 'Extremely useful', how would you rate the usefulness of digital-ready checks?"



Who do you think should be the primary target audience such digital-ready checks?

Policy Officers



IT Portfolio Officers



Data experts






Colleagues with implementation experience

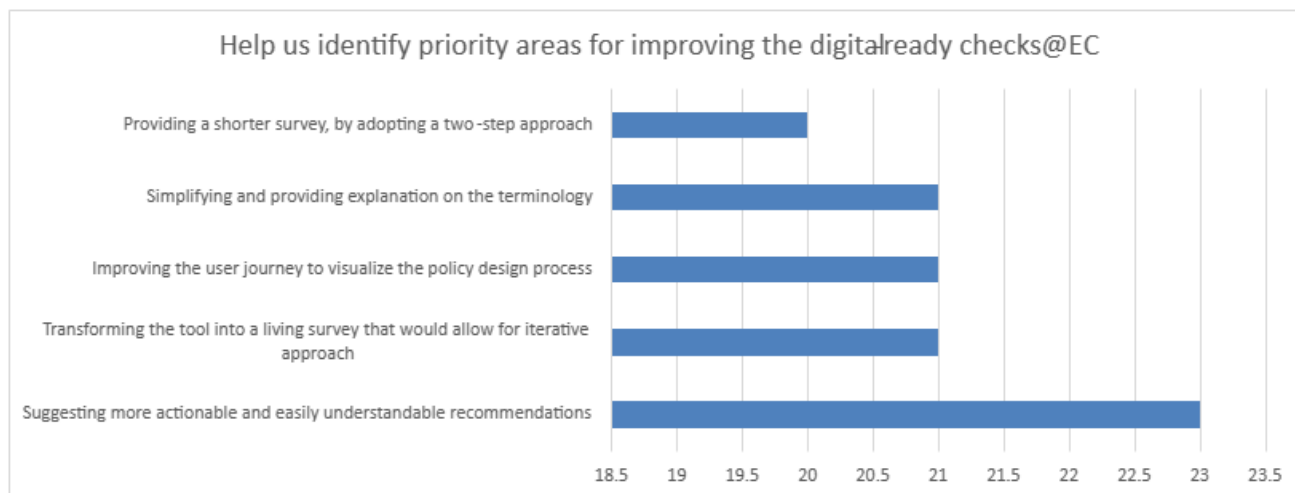


All of the above



Please rank the following outcomes in order of priority, where 1 is the highest priority and 3 is the lowest.

1. Receiving concrete recommendations on how to improve the digital-readiness of your policy proposal
 2.26
2. Identifying any mandatory digital requirements for your policy design set in the context of your administration
 2.04
3. Identifying whom you should involve in the multidisciplinary team and where to find further support
 1.48



Beyond that, please drop here any ideas for improving the digital-ready checks@EC

- Government officials need hands-on training on how to write a digital-ready regulation (so after a theoretical overview, it is necessary to work on some use cases and really exercise the writing of a regulation)
- Checklists can help, but we need to develop a standard methodology as we did years ago for managing projects with PM2 based on service design approach. The German colleagues are moving on that direction
- Digital-ready checks need to be related to national digital ecosystems and regulatory frameworks to be useful. Besides, there are more process-oriented policies but others more general that restrict what legally can be done by the former. It is difficult to see how to apply digital checks to the latter. Business architects could be required in many cases.
- The tool should be applied at various stages of policymaking, not just once as a pass/failure basis. Perhaps start the tool with the question 'at what stage of policy making are you: getting ideas, drafting, stakeholder engagement, finalisation' and select specific questions and recommendations for each phase
- Simplify the questions by only asking one thing in each question, or allowing granular answers
- Specific law drafting advice as an outcome (type, architecture, structure, and relevant content of legal instruments)
- Visualization of business process to improve observability of use cases and provide a context to mitigate misunderstandings
- Training to understand the digital-ready checks and concrete examples on how to apply them