

BusinessFacilitation.ORG

PROMOTING THE EXCHANGE OF SMART SOLUTIONS TO FACILITATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR ENTERPRISE CREATION AND OPERATION



The Business Facilitation Portal aims at identifying and disseminating good practices and policies that governments can implement to facilitate investment and the creation and operation of private businesses, especially small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). It is an online database of smart government solutions which successfully implemented in developed and developing countries to make administrative procedures more transparent, simpler and swifter.

- An online database of good government practices in business facilitation
- Access to benchmarks, norms and recommendations
- Directories of national, regional and international organisations involved in business facilitation

Solutions are organized in **three categories**:

Regulations, i.e. laws and other normative texts setting the rules;

Organizational schemes: physical working structures or operational arrangements set up to improve/speed up administrative procedures, such as one-stop-shops;

Electronic tools: electronic systems functioning between the Government and businesses (G2B), Governments and the citizens (G2C) and among Government offices (G2G).

Solutions will be presented in **various fields**:

Starting a business, business licenses, property registration, construction permits, employing workers, visas & residence, paying taxes, trading across borders, closing a business, transparency, simplification, e-government.

1 Choose one or more fields

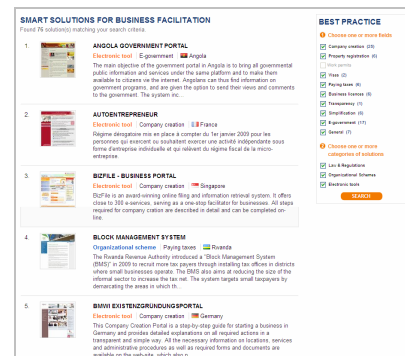
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Starting a business (30)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business licences (6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Property registration (5)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction permits (3)
<input type="checkbox"/> Employing workers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paying taxes (9)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Visas & residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trading across borders
<input type="checkbox"/> Closing business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transparency (1)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simplification (6)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> eGovernment (16)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General (2)	

2 Choose one or more categories of solutions

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law & Regulations (10)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Org. schemes (12)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic tools (59)	

Search

For each field, the database gives access to lists of solutions, showing the country which designed the solution, description, impact, price (if any) and web links. Each solution will be detailed in a specific sheet.



Registered users (government officials only) have the possibility to contact directly the owners of the solutions to ask for more information or to request support for implementation.

Target audience

- **Policy makers** and administrators looking for business facilitation solutions and for support to implement them
- Policy makers and administrators willing to propose business facilitation solutions
- **Donor organisations** willing to finance the implementation of business facilitation solutions in developing countries

EXAMPLES OF SMART SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS FACILITATION

Smart eTool Panama Emprende (Panama)

Panama Emprende allows the opening of a business in a few minutes in an electronic way, without the need for queues, procedures and additional costs. With this new system for the opening of companies, Panama is ranked first in the world in terms of speed and easiness to open companies.



Smart Scheme One-Stop Shop (Rwanda)

At this **one-stop-shop** investors are attended by representatives of Customs, Immigration, the Work Permit Department and the Company Registrar. It takes only three days to incorporate a company, against 21 days before. The exemption of imported goods used to take at least ten days and the process has been reduced to one day; the time for obtaining work permits dropped from seven days to nationals - and from one month to foreigners - to one hour.



Smart Law The Silence-is-Consent Rule (Mauritius)

The silence-is-consent rule was introduced in Mauritius in 2006. Public authorities are obliged to reply to requests for business licences within three working days, else the receipt that acknowledges that the applicant has filed for the permit becomes his actual business licence. By shifting from an ex-ante investigation of businesses to an ex-post verification, business incorporation was considerably facilitated, leading to a surge in local SMEs.

SILENCE-IS-CONSENT RULE LAW Mauritius		TRAINING INFORMATION	
SOLUTION			
Name:	Silence-is-consent rule	Training manuals ?	No
Owner:	National Assembly of the Republic of Mauritius	Online training ?	No
Type:	Law	Est. training time:	-
Field:	Business licences	Costs:	-
Country:	Mauritius	Required people:	-
Website:	http://www.investmauritius.com/download/business/20facilitation520act.pdf		
Cost of licence:	Not applicable		
Success story:	-		
SOLUTION'S DESCRIPTION			
<p>The silence-is-consent rule was introduced in Mauritius in 2006. Public authorities are obliged to reply to requests for business licences within three working days. If the time needed to respond a request exceeds three working days, the receipt that acknowledges that the applicant has filed for the permit, becomes his actual business licence. This way Mauritius shifted from an ex-ante investigation of businesses to an ex-post verification, which considerably facilitates business incorporation, not only for foreign businesses, but also for local SMEs and Microenterprises (There has been a surge in local SMEs as a result of the rule).</p>			

SUBMIT GOOD PRACTICES TO THE PORTAL

National and local governments are encouraged to submit to UNCTAD examples of successful government solutions for business facilitation for evaluation and listing in the businessfacilitation.org portal. For more information please contact:

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