JACOBS&ASSOCIATES
international leaders in regulatory reform

Regulatory Reform and eGovernment Solutions
Better Regulation with IT Tools

Jacobs and Associates, based in the United States and Ireland, is among the leading consultancies in regulatory reform. We have developed a range of eGovernment tools to improve regulatory transparency and to speed up regulatory reform organization, management, and implementation.
See www.regulatoryreform.com for more information.

Regulatory reform is faster and cheaper with eGovernment solutions. IT tools can help governments consult with stakeholders, do better RIA, and manage development of higher-quality legal instruments across the government. Jacobs and Associates has teamed with The Ergo Group in the United States and SenseConsult in Croatia to bring regulatory reform to the eGovernment era.

Our eGovernment tools include:

E*RIA™

e*RIA™ is a web-based system that systematizes regulatory quality management and the use of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) across the ministries. Governments find it difficult to manage regulatory reforms across many ministries and regulations. This open source tool provides a seamless way for multiple government agencies to work within a common management system to create regulations that are cost-effective and contribute to national competiveness. (More information is at regulatoryreform.com/eRIA-promo-intro.htm).

E-RIA includes the following key features:

- A structured online guide to best practices in RIA and regulatory development.
- Central tracking and management of the entire regulatory process
- Embedded workflows that document the entire regulatory process and systematize how employees do their work.
- Online advice and guidance to improve the quality of regulations.
- A single database to store all regulations, both existing and new, their RIAs and related documents safely and securely.
- Links to consultation Web portals and registries, and makes existing regulatory information widely available to businesses both domestic and foreign.

Reform Results Calculator (RRC™)

The RRC estimates rapidly and systematically the main economic benefits of reforming licenses, permits, formalities and administrative procedures. The RRC provides decision makers with quick monetized estimates of the net cost savings that expect to be realized or have been realized in simplification reforms. It compares regulatory costs before and after the reforms.

The RRC is currently being used in the Regulatory Guillotines™ in the municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, to assess the cost-savings to businesses of licensing reforms in Kenya. Through its use, the Government of the RS and of Croatia were able to estimate that the reforms achieved minimum potential savings of more than US $76 million and US$250 million in administrative fees, waiting time and opportunity costs respectively.

E-GUILLOTINE™

The eGuillotine™ is a powerful document process system that speeds up and reduces the costs of national regulatory simplification reforms such as the Regulatory Guillotine™, and lays the foundation for the eRegistry™, the electronic national registry of legal text. The eGuillotine allows governments to manage large simplification reforms across ministries, levels of government, and legal instruments.

In sensitive and dynamic projects like the Regulatory Guillotine™ that deal with tens of thousands of documents and other information, the eGuillotine™ solution provides project managers and team(s) with the tool for efficient monitoring and controlling of the project processes and team performance; for appropriate archiving of the documents and information in different formats; and for assuring transparency towards the public through fully integrated content management system. The eGuillotine™ application, developed from the approach used in Croatia, is in 2008 being used to support large regulatory reforms in Egypt and across 20 ministries and 64 provinces in Vietnam.

For more information, see www.e-guillotine.com.

E-STANDARDS

E-Standards is an integrated software solution for systematizing the entire process of developing new technical standards and subjecting them to public consultation.

E-Standards is a web-based, open source, cutting edge tool that provides a seamless way for an agency with standard-setting responsibilities or an industry group with government delegated standard-making authority to manage the complex process inherent in standardization. E-Standards tracks annual plans, workgroup meetings, meeting documents, draft and proposed standards, public consultation and ultimate publication.

More and more, stakeholders require greater transparency and accountability from this process. Whether it is industry or consumer groups, a broad constituency is interested in the standard making process and in ensuring that it is both comprehensive and fair. Those agencies that are in charge of the process need tools that allow them to organize the work, track it, foster collaboration and disseminate results for public comment. Moreover, these agencies need to be capable of producing records that satisfy stakeholders and government auditors. e-Standards provides all of this in an easy to use package.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WEB PORTALS

Our team has extensive experience in the design and development of innovative web based solutions for public and private sector clients. We have specialized in the development of technology solutions that address the need to communicate with citizens, stakeholders and on an interagency level. The main differentiator of our work is that we understand public policy imperatives and design web solutions that communicate complex information simply and allow for increased interaction between the government, its citizens, as well as other stakeholders. At the same time, our creative team delivers websites, portals and web applications that are user friendly and visually appealing.

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