



BRIGHT

**The Better
Regulation
Insight Tool**



- Insightful
- Accessible
- Practical

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Gain insight to get Better Regulation

The Better Regulation Insight Tool (BRIGHT) provides the Partnerships of the EU Urban Agenda and other stakeholders with tools they can use to bring their EU regulatory bottlenecks to the attention of the European Commission. Furthermore, BRIGHT can help them to propose solutions for these bottlenecks effectively. The tool is designed with the aim of helping stakeholders engage with the EU Better Regulation Agenda in a bottom-up approach.

What does the BRIGHT-tool offer?



➤ E-learning tool

A step by step process to collect and make use of the Better Regulation Agenda.



➤ Quick Scan

Helps you organise collected bottlenecks and match them with EU feedback opportunities.



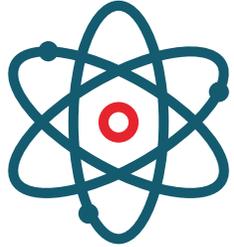
➤ Better Regulation Roadmap

A guide to the EU policymaking cycle.

What is the aim of the BRIGHT-tool?

The BRIGHT-tool is created by EU Law and Policy Institute *Europa decentraal* and commissioned by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations. The goal of the tool is to familiarise members of the Partnerships of the EU Urban Agenda with Better Regulation and to assist them in formulating Better Regulation-proposals. However, BRIGHT is free to use for anyone interested in gaining more knowledge about the Better Regulation Agenda and using the feedback opportunities available to them effectively.

Get Bright!



Master the BRIGHT method by completing the e-learning tool. This practical method is a step-by-step process in which users learn how to formulate and analyse the EU legislative bottlenecks they encounter and identify the corresponding better regulation input opportunities.

1 Collecting

The first phase is about collecting input from experts and other stakeholders.

For example: By organising focus groups, stakeholders can collect and assess which bottlenecks exist within a specific policy area.



2 Zooming in

After gathering relevant information and experiences, stakeholders can zoom in on the specific parts of EU legislation that are associated with a regulatory bottleneck.

For example: In coordination with relevant experts, stakeholders identify in more detail the specific aspects in a certain EU legislation which are associated with the bottleneck.



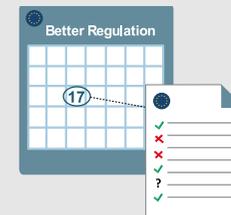
Better Regulation Insight Tool



3 Matching

Stakeholders learn more about the process of EU policymaking. With this insight, the regulatory bottleneck can be matched to an appropriate input opportunity.

For example: After tracking the status of the relevant legislation in the EU policymaking cycle, stakeholders can find out there is an upcoming evaluation or impact assessment which they can use to provide feedback.



4 Proposing

Stakeholders find out how to use the feedback opportunities of the Better Regulation Agenda effectively.

For example: Stakeholders learn how input is collected by the European Commission in different feedback opportunities.



Better Regulation Roadmap



The Roadmap offers stakeholders an overview of the EU policy-making cycle and the corresponding Better Regulation input-moments. After assigning their bottleneck with a specific classification following the BRIGHT-method, the Roadmap offers stakeholders an overview of the relevant input-moments for their bottleneck.

1 Formulation

In the formulation phase, the European Commission analyses if a legislative initiative is necessary and does preparatory work for the adoption procedure. There are various input opportunities in which stakeholders are encouraged to make their views known, suitable for most types of bottlenecks.

3 Implementation

There is little legislative and policy-making activity during this stage, because formerly draft proposals are now finalized and implemented as EU law. Therefore, input opportunities are scarce and may vary per type of bottleneck.

2 Adoption

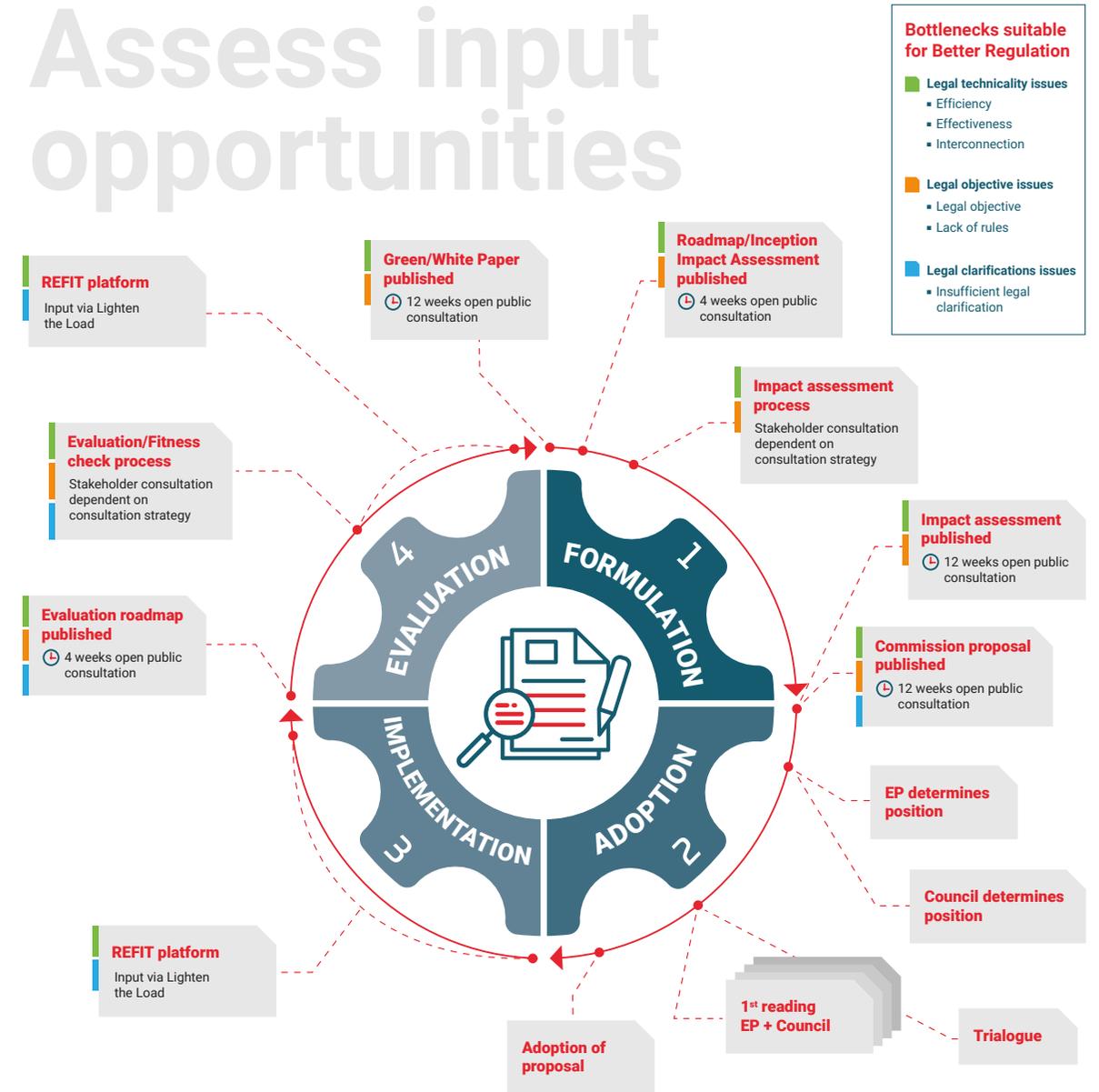
There are many ways to submit input throughout the process of adopting an EU act. Influencing the EU institutions during the legislative process however falls outside the scope of the BRIGHT-tool, which emphasis lies on the better regulation opportunities outside of the legislative procedure.

4 Evaluation

The evaluation phase of EU policy can include multiple input opportunities, suitable for all types of bottlenecks.



Assess input opportunities



Quick Scan

After stakeholders have been acquainted with the BRIGHT method, they can use the Quick Scan to organise collected bottlenecks and generate an overview of the suitable EU feedback opportunities.



Insightful results in five steps



1 A description of your issue

Describe the issue you want to address.

2 EU competence?

Does the issue from step one fall under EU competence?

3 Mapping exercise

The mapping exercise allows you to outline which legislation is relevant to your issue.

4 Focus tables

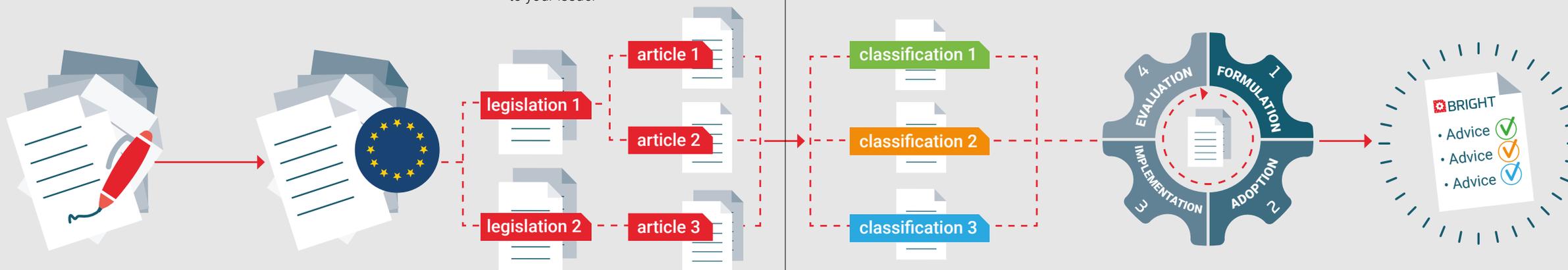
Each piece of legislation gets its own focus table.

5 Status legislation

A flowchart to assess the status of your legislation.

6 Outline of your issue

The results of your quickscan.



What can be achieved through the Better Regulation Agenda?

Example 1 - REFIT Platform



The bottleneck of a triple helix project

A project team, consisting of regional authorities and other partners with an innovative idea, intends to apply for a European subsidy at the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). Applying for a subsidy under the objectives of ESIF involves many rules in itself. Since both businesses and governmental organisations are involved in the project, the project team should also take the European state aid rules and public procurement rules into account.

The rules governing the ESI-funds do not completely correspond to the European state aid rules. Certain definitions and procedures – such as for example the definition of innovation – are explained differently by different Commission departments.



Submitting a bottleneck to the REFIT Platform

The project team recognises that their issue stems from European legislation. The regional authorities involved in the project refer the matter to the *House of the Dutch Provinces*. After gathering the practical evidence, it submits the bottleneck to the REFIT Platform, which eventually adopts an Opinion on the submission. The recommendations by the REFIT Platform about this bottleneck are presented to the European Commission. These are taken into account by the Commission in the Commission Working Programme which starts a process of addressing the bottleneck.



Success!

The bottleneck is brought to the attention of the European Commission through the REFIT Platform. The Commission proposes to change certain methods used in the procedures of the ESI-funds to the ones that are used in the state aid rules.

Example 2 - Public consultations



Identifying regulatory issues in an Urban Agenda Partnership

The *Urban Agenda for the EU* consists of multiple thematic partnerships. These partnerships represent a new type of multi-level working method between Member States, cities, the European Commission and other stakeholders. One of the objectives of these partnerships is to identify unnecessary obstacles in EU policy and EU regulation at city level.

For example, the *Circular Economy Partnership* has taken stock of several issues regarding EU policy and regulation that impede or slow down the promotion of the circular economy in cities. One of these issues is that the current EU regulatory framework governing the ESI-funds 2014-2020 does not explicitly and comprehensively support the circular economy. The Partnership considers that a clear reference to and focus on the circular economy at city level in the regulatory framework of the ESI-funds is necessary to boost investment in the circular economy in European cities.



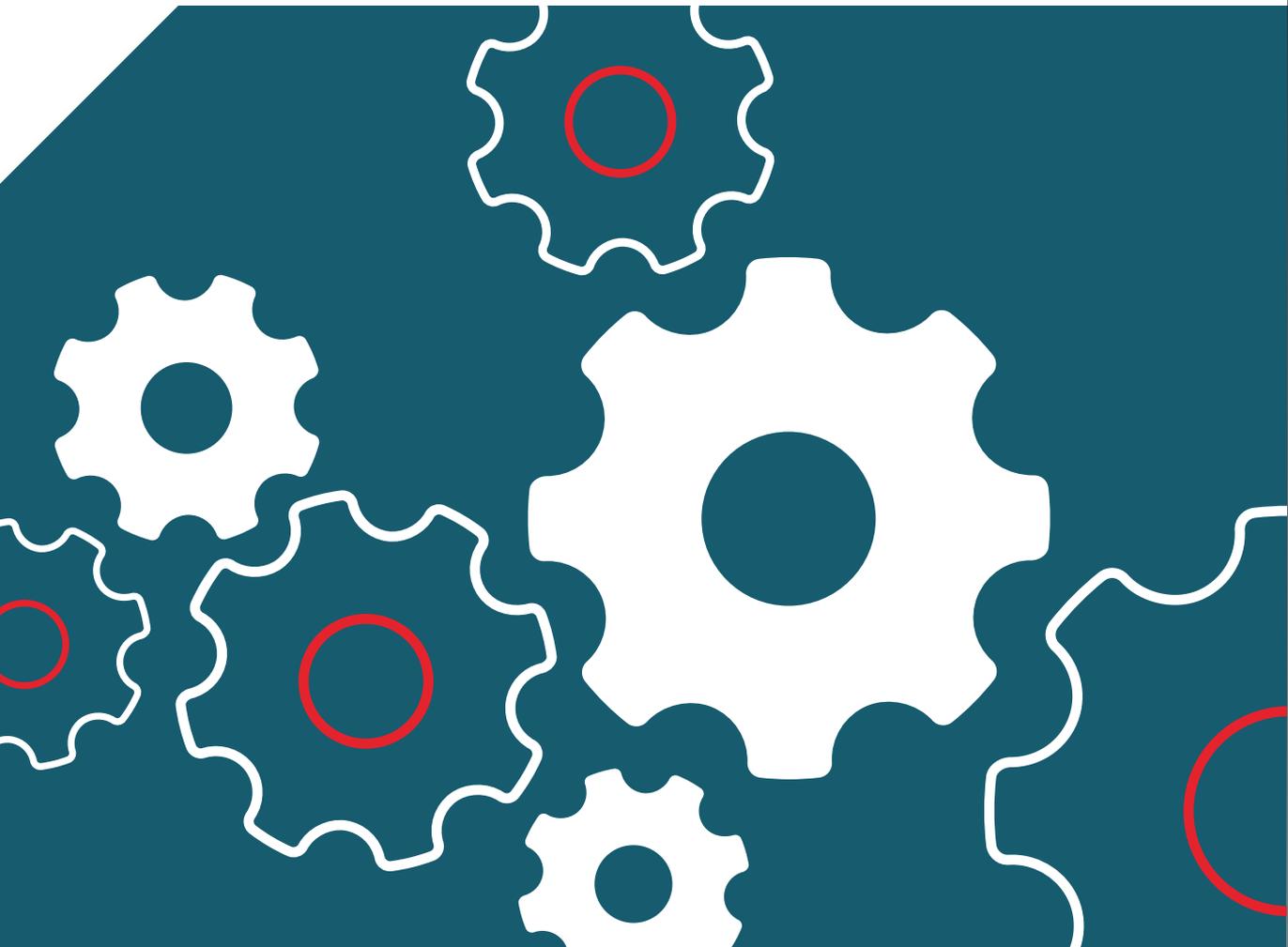
Providing input during a consultation

The members of the Partnership were made aware of an upcoming consultation set up by the European Commission concerning the ESI-funds. The goal of this consultation was to collect input that feeds back into the preparation of a new Commission proposal regarding the ESI-funds for the post-2020 period. The Partnership, therefore, decided to use this feedback opportunity and draft a position paper based on the collected practical experiences of the members of the Partnership.



Success!

The general position paper is noticed by the European Commission, which invited the *Circular Economy Partnership* to provide more detailed input regarding their city-level experiences and proposals for the new ESI-funds regulatory framework post-2020. A more detailed position paper was drafted by the Partnership, which called for mainstreaming the circular economy, especially at the city level, in EU Cohesion policy and ESIF funds by including more detailed and distinct references in the specific eligibility fields of ESI-funds to the circular economy. The final Commission proposal for the post-2020 ESI-funds regulatory framework included several policy objectives in which explicit references are made to the circular economy.



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