



CRI

Centre for Regulatory Innovation

Regulators' Capacity Fund

Regulatory Standardization and Rules as Code

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Lead Organization:

Environment and Climate
Change Canada (ECCC)

Timeline:

Sep 2021 – Mar 2022

Funding:

\$60,000

ABOUT THE RCF

The CRI's Regulators' Capacity Fund empowers federal regulators to better consider economic, competitiveness, and resilience factors in regulatory design and implementation.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project aimed to identify best practices and methodologies for standardizing regulatory terminology and develop an approach for translating regulations into machine-readable code. This initiative focused on enhancing regulatory clarity, reducing compliance costs, and leveraging digital technologies for regulatory management.

The Challenge:

Regulatory texts often lack consistency and clarity, leading to misinterpretation and increased compliance costs. Traditional regulatory processes are not equipped to handle the complexities of modern digital environments, necessitating the development of innovative approaches like Rules as Code.

The Approach:

ECCC proposed to collaborate with academic experts to analyze regulatory texts and develop standardized taxonomies. The project would have involved extensive research, the development of a standardized regulatory terminology and work to determine the feasibility of translating regulations into machine-readable code.

The Impact:

Despite facing challenges in contracting and procurement, the preliminary research of this project informed regulatory services modernization work within ECCC

Lessons Learned:

Clarity: Clear and standardized regulatory texts could reduce compliance costs and improve understanding.

Digital Integration: Leveraging digital technologies can be resource-intensive and requires identifying technical and critical pre-requisites in advance.

Collaboration: Early engagement with experts and stakeholders is crucial for developing practical solutions.

This project highlighted the benefits and challenges associated with standardizing regulatory text and integrating digital technologies into the regulatory processes to improve regulatory clarity.