Government of Canada Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

CRI

Centre for Regulatory Innovation

Regulators’ Capacity Fund

Competition Assessment Toolkit

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Lead Organization:
Competition Bureau

Timeline:
Oct 2020 – Mar 2021

Funding:
$133,250

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 develop a comprehensive toolkit to assess the competitive impacts of regulations. This toolkit is designed to help regulators identify, measure, and mitigate potential anti-competitive effects of new and existing regulations.

The Challenge:

Regulations can unintentionally hinder competition, leading to higher prices, reduced innovation, and lower quality of goods and services. Without a standardized method to assess these impacts, regulators struggled to identify and address potential anti-competitive outcomes effectively.

The Approach:

The Competition Bureau created a user-friendly toolkit. This included a detailed methodology for assessing competitive impacts, practical tools for analysis, and training materials for regulators. The project involved extensive consultations with stakeholders to ensure the toolkit met their needs and incorporated best practices from international examples.

The Impact:

The toolkit was piloted with several regulatory bodies with positive feedback. Over 50 regulators were trained, and as a result regulators are now better equipped to identify and mitigate anti-competitive effects when designing or evaluating regulations.

Lessons Learned:

Stakeholder Engagement: Continuous feedback from users is crucial for developing practical tools.

Training: Effective implementation requires comprehensive training programs.

Flexibility: The toolkit must be adaptable to various regulatory contexts.

This project demonstrates the importance of proactive competition assessment in regulatory processes, ensuring that regulations promote rather than hinder competitive markets.