Summaries of Doing Business reforms in 2011/12

Doing Business reforms affecting all sets of indicators included in this year’s report, implemented from June 2011 to June 2012.

✓ Doing Business reform making it easier to do business
✓ Doing Business reform making it more difficult to do business

ALBANIA
✓ Starting a business
Albania made starting a business easier by making the notarization of incorporation documents optional.
✓ Paying taxes
Albania made paying taxes easier for companies by abolishing the vehicle tax and encouraging electronic filing for taxes.

ARMENIA
✓ Getting electricity
Armenia made getting electricity easier by streamlining procedures and reducing connection fees.
✓ Protecting investors
Armenia strengthened investor protections by introducing a requirement for shareholder approval of related-party transactions, requiring greater disclosure of such transactions in the annual report and making it easier to sue directors when such transactions are prejudicial.

ALGERIA
✓ Getting credit
Algeria improved access to credit information by eliminating the minimum threshold for loans to be included in the database.

ANGOLA
✓ Getting electricity
Angola made getting electricity easier by eliminating the requirement for customers applying for an electricity connection to obtain authorizations from the 2 utility companies.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
✗ Trading across borders
Antigua and Barbuda made trading across borders more difficult by increasing the number of documents required to import.

ARGENTINA
✗ Trading across borders
Argentina increased the time, cost and number of documents needed to import by expanding the list of products requiring nonautomatic licenses and introducing new preapproval procedures for all imports.

AUSTRALIA
✓ Getting credit
Australia strengthened its secured transactions system by adopting a new national legal regime governing the enforceability of security interests in personal property and implementing a unified collateral registry.

BANGLADESH
✗ Getting electricity
Bangladesh made getting electricity more difficult by requiring all customers to meet 7% of their electricity needs through solar energy, making it necessary to install solar panels.
✓ Getting credit
Bangladesh improved access to credit information by establishing an online platform for sharing such information.

BELARUS
✗ Starting a business
Belarus made starting a business more difficult by increasing the cost of business

Reforms affecting the employing workers indicators are included here but do not affect the ranking on the ease of doing business.
registration and the cost to obtain a company seal.

✓ Paying taxes
Belarus made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate and encouraging the use of electronic filing and payment systems.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Belarus enhanced its insolvency process by exempting the previously state-owned property of a privatized company from the bankruptcy proceeding, requiring that immovable property not sold in the auction be offered to creditors for purchase and allowing immovable property to be sold without proof of state registration in a bankruptcy auction if there are no funds to pay for the registration.

BELIZE

✓ Trading across borders
Belize reduced the time to export and import by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

BENIN

✓ Starting a business
Benin made starting a business easier by appointing a representative of the commercial registry at the one-stop shop and reducing some fees.

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Benin reduced the time required to obtain a construction permit by speeding up the processing of applications.

✓ Trading across borders
Benin reduced the time required to trade across borders by implementing an electronic single-window system integrating customs, control agencies, port authorities and other service providers at the Cotonou port.

✓ Enforcing contracts
Benin made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a new code of civil, administrative and social procedures.

BHUTAN

Employing workers
Bhutan introduced a minimum wage.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

✓ Registering property
Bosnia and Herzegovina made it easier to transfer property between companies by computerizing the commercial registry.

✓ Getting credit
Bosnia and Herzegovina made access to credit information more difficult by stopping the private credit bureau’s collection of credit information on individuals.

✓ Paying taxes
Bosnia and Herzegovina eased the administrative burden of filing and paying social security contributions by implementing electronic filing and payment systems.

BOTSWANA

✓ Paying taxes
Botswana made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the profit tax rate.

✓ Trading across borders
In Botswana exporting and importing became faster thanks to the introduction of a scanner by the country’s customs authority and an upgrade of South Africa’s customs declaration system, both at the Kopfontein-Tlokweng border post.

BRAZIL

✓ Registering property
Brazil made transferring property more difficult by introducing a new certificate of good standing on labor debts, adding to the number of due diligence procedures.

✓ Enforcing contracts
Brazil made enforcing contracts easier by implementing an electronic system for filing initial complaints at the São Paulo civil district court.

Employing workers
Brazil increased the notice period applicable in cases of redundancy dismissal of employees.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Brunei Darussalam made dealing with construction permits easier by creating a one-stop shop for preconstruction approvals.

✓ Paying taxes
Brunei Darussalam made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

BURUNDI

✓ Starting a business
Burundi made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirements to have company documents notarized, to publish information on new companies in a journal and to register new companies with the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Burundi made obtaining a construction permit easier by eliminating the requirement for a clearance from the Ministry of Health and reducing the cost of the geotechnical study.

✓ Registering property
Burundi made property transfers faster by establishing a statutory time limit for processing property transfer requests at the land registry.

✓ Trading across borders
Burundi reduced the time to trade across borders by enhancing its use of electronic data interchange systems, introducing a more efficient system for monitoring goods going through transit countries and improving border coordination with neighboring transit countries.

CAMBODIA

✓ Getting credit
Cambodia improved access to credit information by establishing its first private credit bureau.

✓ Paying taxes
Cambodia introduced a new tax on immovable property.

CAMEROON

✓ Enforcing contracts
Cameroon made enforcing contracts easier by creating specialized commercial divisions within its courts of first instance.

CANADA

✓ Getting electricity
Canada made getting an electricity connection easier by reducing the time needed for external connection works.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

✓ Dealing with construction permits
The Central African Republic made obtaining a construction permit more costly.
CHAD
✓ Starting a business
Chad made starting a business easier by setting up a one-stop shop.

CHINA
✓ Starting a business
China made starting a business less costly by exempting micro and small companies from paying several administrative fees from January 2012 to December 2014.
✓ Dealing with construction permits
China simplified the process of obtaining a construction permit by streamlining and centralizing preconstruction approvals.

COLOMBIA
✓ Starting a business
Colombia made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to purchase and register accounting books at the time of incorporation.

COMOROS
✓ Starting a business
The Comoros made starting a business easier by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders’ criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company’s registration and by reducing the fees to incorporate a company.
✓ Registering property
The Comoros made it easier to transfer property by reducing the property transfer tax.

CONGO, DEM. REP.
✓ Starting a business
The Democratic Republic of Congo made starting a business easier by appointing additional public notaries.

CONGO, REP.
✓ Starting a business
The Republic of Congo made starting a business easier by eliminating or reducing several administrative costs associated with incorporation.
✓ Dealing with construction permits
The Republic of Congo made dealing with construction permits less expensive by reducing the cost of registering a new building at the land registry.

COSTA RICA
✓ Starting a business
Costa Rica made starting a business easier by streamlining the process of obtaining a sanitary permit for low-risk activities.
✓ Dealing with construction permits
Costa Rica streamlined the process for obtaining construction permits by implementing online approval systems.
✓ Getting credit
Costa Rica improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers’ right to inspect their personal data.
✓ Paying taxes
Costa Rica made paying taxes easier for companies by implementing electronic payment for municipal taxes—though it also introduced a registration flat tax.

CROATIA
✓ Paying taxes
Croatia made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the health insurance contribution rate.

CYPRUS
✓ Registering property
Cyprus made property transfers faster by computerizing its land registry.
✓ Paying taxes
Cyprus made paying taxes more costly for companies by increasing the special defense contribution rate on interest income and introducing a private sector special contribution and a fixed annual fee for companies registered in Cyprus. At the same time, it simplified tax compliance by introducing electronic filing for corporate income tax.

CZECH REPUBLIC
✓ Registering property
The Czech Republic made registering property easier by allowing the cadastral office online access to the commercial registry’s database and thus eliminating the need to obtain a paper certificate from the registry before applying for registration at the cadastre.
✓ Paying taxes
The Czech Republic made paying taxes faster for companies by promoting the use of electronic facilities.
✓ Trading across borders
The Czech Republic reduced the time to export and import by allowing electronic submission of customs declarations and other documents.

DENMARK
✓ Registering property
Denmark made registering property easier by introducing electronic submission of property transfer applications at the land registry.

DOMINICA
✓ Trading across borders
Dominica reduced the time to import by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
✗ Paying taxes
The Dominican Republic increased the corporate income tax rate.

ECUADOR
✗ Registering property
In Ecuador property transfers became more time consuming as a result of implementation problems in transferring authority over property records to the municipality of Quito.

EL SALVADOR
✓ Getting credit
El Salvador improved access to credit information through a new law regulating the management of personal credit information.
✓ Paying taxes
El Salvador introduced an alternative minimum tax.

ETHIOPIA
✓ Getting credit
Ethiopia improved access to credit information by establishing an online platform for sharing such information and by guaranteeing borrowers’ right to inspect their personal data.
✗ Paying taxes
Ethiopia introduced a social insurance contribution.
FIJI

✓ Starting a business
Fiji made starting a business more difficult by requiring new companies applying for a business license to obtain a certificate from the national fire authority and a letter of compliance from the Ministry of Labor.

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Fiji made obtaining a construction permit more expensive by implementing a fee for the fire department clearance.

✓ Registering property
Fiji made transferring property more difficult by requiring parties to a property transaction to obtain a capital gains tax clearance certificate from the Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority.

✓ Paying taxes
Fiji made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate. At the same time, Fiji introduced a capital gains tax.

GABON

✓ Registering property
In Gabon registering property became more difficult because of longer administrative delays at the land registry.

GEORGIA

✓ Getting electricity
Georgia made getting electricity easier by simplifying the process of connecting new customers to the distribution network and reducing connection fees.

✓ Getting credit
Georgia strengthened its secured transactions system through an amendment to the civil code allowing a security interest to extend to the products, proceeds and replacements of collateral.

✓ Paying taxes
Georgia made paying taxes easier for companies by enhancing the use of electronic systems and providing more services to taxpayers.

✓ Trading across borders
Georgia reduced the time to export and import by creating customs clearance zones.

✓ Enforcing contracts
Georgia made enforcing contracts easier by simplifying and speeding up the proceedings for commercial disputes.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Georgia expedited the process of resolving insolvency by establishing or tightening time limits for all insolvency-related procedures, including auctions.

GERMANY

✓ Paying taxes
Germany made paying taxes more convenient for companies by canceling ELENA procedures and implementing an electronic filing and payment system for most taxes.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Germany strengthened its insolvency process by adopting a new insolvency law that facilitates in-court restructurings of distressed companies and increases participation by creditors.

GHANA

✓ Trading across borders
Ghana added to the time required to import by increasing its scanning of imports and changing its customs clearance system.

GREECE

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Greece reduced the time required to obtain a construction permit by introducing strict time limits for processing permit applications at the municipality.

✓ Protecting investors
Greece strengthened investor protections by requiring greater immediate and annual disclosure of material related-party transactions.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Greece enhanced its insolvency process by abolishing the conciliation procedure and introducing a new rehabilitation proceeding.

GRENADA

✓ Trading across borders
Grenada reduced the time to export and import by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

GUATEMALA

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Guatemala made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing a risk-based approval system.

GUINEA

✓ Starting a business
Guinea made starting a business easier by setting up a one-stop shop for company incorporation and by replacing the requirement for a copy of the founders’ criminal records with one for a sworn declaration at the time of the company’s registration.

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Guinea made obtaining a building permit less expensive by clarifying the method for calculating the cost.

✓ Getting electricity
Guinea made getting electricity easier by simplifying the process for connecting new customers to the distribution network.

HUNGARY

✓ Starting a business
Hungary made starting a business more complex by increasing the registration fees for limited liability companies and adding a new tax registration at the time of incorporation.

✓ Getting credit
Hungary improved access to credit information by passing its first credit bureau law mandating the creation of a database with positive credit information on individuals.

✓ Paying taxes
Hungary made paying taxes easier for companies by abolishing the community tax. At the same time, Hungary increased health insurance contributions paid by the employer.

✓ Trading across borders
Hungary reduced the time to export and import by allowing electronic submission of customs declarations and other documents.

ICELAND

✓ Paying taxes
Iceland increased the corporate income tax rate.

INDIA

✓ Dealing with construction permits
India reduced the time required to obtain a building permit by establishing strict time limits for preconstruction approvals.
INDONESIA

- **Getting electricity**
  Indonesia made getting electricity easier by eliminating the requirement for new customers applying for an electricity connection to show a neighbor’s electricity bill as a way to help determine their address.

- **Resolving insolvency**
  Korea expedited the insolvency process by implementing a fast track for company rehabilitation.

JAPAN

- **Paying taxes**
  Japan made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also introduced a restoration surtax for a 3-year period.

KAZAKHSTAN

- **Starting a business**
  Kazakhstan made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement to pay in minimum capital within 3 months after incorporation.

ISRAEL

- **Registering property**
  Israel made transferring property easier by tightening time limits for tax authorities to process capital gains self-assessments on property transfers.

- **Protecting investors**
  Kosovo strengthened investor protections by introducing a requirement for shareholder approval of related-party transactions, requiring greater disclosure of such transactions in the annual report and making it easier to sue directors when such transactions are prejudicial.

IRELAND

- **Starting a business**
  Ireland made starting a business easier by introducing a new online facility for business registration.

- **Registering property**
  Ireland made property transfers less costly by introducing a single stamp duty rate for transfers of nonresidential property. It also extended compulsory registration to all property in Ireland.

ITALY

- **Getting electricity**
  Italy made getting electricity easier and less costly by improving the efficiency of the utility Acea Distribuzione and reducing connection fees.

- **Registering property**
  Italy made transferring property easier by digitizing cadastral maps of properties and making the maps available to notaries online.

ISRAEL

- **Registering property**
  Israel made transferring property easier by tightening time limits for tax authorities to process capital gains self-assessments on property transfers.

JAMAICA

- **Paying taxes**
  Jamaica made paying taxes easier for companies by allowing joint filing and payment of all social security contributions.

- **Resolving insolvency**
  Korea expedited the insolvency process by implementing a fast track for company rehabilitation.

KOSOVO

- **Starting a business**
  Kosovo made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement and business registration fee and streamlining the business registration process.

- **Protecting investors**
  Kosovo strengthened investor protections by introducing a requirement for shareholder approval of related-party transactions, requiring greater disclosure of such transactions in the annual report and making it easier to sue directors when such transactions are prejudicial.

LATVIA

- **Employing workers**
  Latvia eliminated requirements for notification of third parties in cases of redundancy dismissal.

LESOTHO

- **Starting a business**
  Lesotho made starting a business easier by creating a one-stop shop for company incorporation and by eliminating the requirements for paid-in minimum capital and for notarization of the articles of association.

- **Protecting investors**
  Lesotho strengthened investor protections by increasing the disclosure requirements.
for related-party transactions and improving the liability regime for company directors in cases of abusive related-party transactions.

**LIBERIA**

- **Getting electricity**
  In Liberia obtaining an electricity connection became easier thanks to the adoption of better procurement practices by the Liberia Electricity Corporation.

- **Paying taxes**
  Liberia made paying taxes easier for companies by reducing the profit tax rate and abolishing the turnover tax.

- **Enforcing contracts**
  Liberia made enforcing contracts easier by creating a specialized commercial court.

**LITHUANIA**

- **Starting a business**
  Lithuania made starting a business easier by introducing online registration for limited liability companies and eliminating the notarization requirement for incorporation documents.

- **Resolving insolvency**
  Lithuania made resolving insolvency easier by establishing which cases against the company’s property shall be taken to the bankruptcy court, tightening the time frame for decisions on appeals, abolishing the court’s obligation to individually notify creditors and other stakeholders about restructuring proceedings and setting new time limits for creditors to file claims.

**MACEDONIA, FYR**

- **Starting a business**
  FYR Macedonia made starting a business easier by simplifying the process for obtaining a company seal.

**MADAGASCAR**

- **Starting a business**
  Madagascar made starting a business easier by allowing the one-stop shop to deal with the publication of the notice of incorporation.

**MALAWI**

- **Dealing with construction permits**
  Malawi made dealing with construction permits more expensive by increasing the cost to obtain the plan approval and to register the property.

- **Paying taxes**
  Malawi introduced a mandatory pension contribution for companies.

- **Trading across borders**
  Trading across borders became easier in Malawi thanks to improvements in customs clearance procedures and transport links between the port of Beira in Mozambique and Blantyre.

**MALAYSIA**

- **Dealing with construction permits**
  Malaysia made dealing with construction permits faster by improving the one-stop center for new buildings and by reducing the time to connect to telephone service.

- **Registering property**
  Malaysia substantially reduced the number of days it takes to register property transfers.

**MALDIVES**

- **Paying taxes**
  Maldives introduced a goods and service tax, a business profit tax and additional social contributions.

**MALI**

- **Paying taxes**
  Mali made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate—though it also introduced a new tax on land. At the same time, Mali simplified the process of paying taxes by introducing a single form for joint filing and payment of several taxes.

**MOLDOVA**

- **Protecting investors**
  Moldova strengthened investor protections by allowing the rescission of prejudicial related-party transactions.

- **Paying taxes**
  Moldova made paying taxes more costly for companies by reintroducing the corporate income tax—but also made tax compliance easier by encouraging electronic filing and payment.

- **Enforcing contracts**
  Moldova made enforcing contracts more difficult by abolishing the specialized economic courts.

- **Resolving insolvency**
  Moldova strengthened its insolvency process by extending the duration of the reorganization proceeding and refining the qualification requirements for insolvency administrators.

**MONGOLIA**

- **Starting a business**
  Mongolia made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.

- **Getting credit**
  Mongolia improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers’ right to inspect their personal data.

- **Protecting investors**
  Mongolia strengthened investor protections by increasing the disclosure requirements for related-party transactions.

**MONTENEGRO**

- **Dealing with construction permits**
  Montenegro made dealing with construction permits less expensive by reducing the cost of pre- and postconstruction procedures.

- **Getting credit**
  Montenegro improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers’ right to inspect their personal data.
Employing workers
Montenegro lowered redundancy costs—though it also reduced the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts and increased paid annual leave.

**MOROCCO**

✔ Starting a business
Morocco made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for limited liability companies.

✗ Registering property
Morocco made registering property more costly by increasing property registration fees.

**NAMIBIA**

✔ Getting electricity
Namibia made getting electricity easier by reducing the time required to provide estimates and external connection works and by lowering the connection costs.

✗ Registering property
Namibia made transferring property more difficult by requiring conveyancers to obtain a building compliance certificate beforehand.

**NETHERLANDS**

✔ Starting a business
The Netherlands made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a declaration of nonobjection by the Ministry of Justice before incorporation.

✔ Dealing with construction permits
The Netherlands made dealing with construction permits simpler by merging several approvals and implementing an online application system.

✔ Protecting investors
The Netherlands strengthened investor protections through a new law regulating the approval of related-party transactions.

✔ Trading across borders
The Netherlands made importing easier by introducing a new web-based system for cargo release at the port terminals in Rotterdam.

**NEW ZEALAND**

✔ Getting credit
New Zealand improved access to credit information by allowing credit bureaus to collect positive information on individuals.

**NIGER**

✔ Trading across borders
Niger reduced the time to import by expanding and optimizing the use of an electronic data interchange system for customs clearance.

**NIGERIA**

✗ Paying taxes
Nigeria introduced a new compulsory labor contribution paid by the employer.

**NORWAY**

✔ Starting a business
Norway made starting a business easier by reducing the minimum capital requirement for private joint stock companies.

✔ Dealing with construction permits
Norway reduced the time required to obtain a building permit by implementing strict time limits for construction project approvals.

**OMAN**

✔ Getting credit
Oman improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers’ right to inspect their personal data.

**PANAMA**

✔ Dealing with construction permits
Panama made dealing with construction permits easier by reducing the fees for a permit from the fire department’s safety office and by accelerating the process at the building registry for obtaining a certificate of good standing and for registering the new building.

**PERU**

✔ Dealing with construction permits
Peru made obtaining a construction permit easier by eliminating requirements for several preconstruction approvals.

✔ Protecting investors
Peru strengthened investor protections through a new law regulating the approval of related-party transactions and making it easier to sue directors when such transactions are prejudicial.

**POLAND**

✔ Registering property
Poland made registering property registration faster by introducing a new caseload management system for the land and mortgage registries and by continuing to digitize the records of the registries.

✔ Paying taxes
Poland made paying taxes easier for companies by promoting the use of electronic filing and payment systems—though it also increased social security contributions.

✔ Enforcing contracts
Poland made enforcing contracts easier by amending the civil procedure code and appointing more judges to commercial courts.

✔ Resolving insolvency
Poland strengthened its insolvency process by updating guidelines on the information and documents that need to be included in the bankruptcy petition and by granting secured creditors the right to take over claims encumbered with financial pledges in case of liquidation.

**PORTUGAL**

✔ Dealing with construction permits
Portugal made obtaining construction permits easier by implementing strict time limits to process urban projects and simplifying the associated procedures.

✔ Trading across borders
Portugal made trading across borders easier by implementing an electronic single window for port procedures.

✔ Resolving insolvency
Portugal made resolving insolvency easier by introducing a new insolvency law that expedites liquidation procedures and creates fast-track mechanisms both in and out of court.
Employing workers
Portugal increased the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts and reduced the severance pay applicable in cases of redundancy dismissal.

**PUERTO RICO (U.S.)**

✔ Paying taxes
Puerto Rico (territory of the United States) made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by introducing a new internal revenue code and tax codification and by reducing the effective corporate income tax rate.

**QATAR**

✔ Trading across borders
Qatar reduced the time to export and import by introducing a new online portal allowing electronic submission of customs declarations for clearance at the Doha seaport.

**ROMANIA**

✔ Starting a business
Romania made starting a business easier by reducing the time required to obtain a clearance certificate from the fiscal administration agency.

✔ Getting credit
Romania strengthened its legal framework for secured transactions by allowing the automatic extension of security interests to the products, proceeds and replacement of collateral.

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

✔ Dealing with construction permits
Russia made obtaining a construction permit simpler by eliminating requirements for several preconstruction approvals.

✔ Paying taxes
Russia eased the administrative burden of taxes for firms by simplifying compliance procedures for value added tax and by promoting the use of tax accounting software and electronic services.

**RWANDA**

✔ Getting electricity
Rwanda made getting electricity easier by reducing the cost of obtaining a new connection.

✔ Enforcing contracts
Rwanda made enforcing contracts easier by implementing an electronic filing system for initial complaints.

**SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE**

✔ Dealing with construction permits
São Tomé and Príncipe made obtaining a construction permit more expensive by increasing the fees.

**SAUDI ARABIA**

✔ Getting electricity
Saudi Arabia made getting electricity more expensive by increasing the connection fees.

✔ Paying taxes
Saudi Arabia made paying taxes easier for companies by introducing online filing and payment systems for social security contributions.

✔ Enforcing contracts
Saudi Arabia made enforcing contracts easier by expanding the computerization of its courts and introducing an electronic filing system.

**SERBIA**

✔ Starting a business
Serbia made starting a business easier by eliminating the paid-in minimum capital requirement.

✔ Enforcing contracts
Serbia made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a private bailiff system.

✔ Resolving insolvency
Serbia strengthened its insolvency process by redefining the roles and powers of creditors and trustees, strengthening the rights of secured creditors and redefining rules for the conversion of restructuring into a bankruptcy proceeding.

**SLOVENIA**

✔ Protecting investors
Slovenia strengthened investor protections through a new law regulating the approval of related-party transactions.

✔ Paying taxes
Slovenia made paying taxes easier and less costly for companies by implementing electronic filing and payment of social security contributions and by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

✔ Resolving insolvency
Slovenia strengthened its insolvency process by requiring that the debtor offer creditors payment of at least 50% of the claims within 4 years; giving greater power to the creditors’ committee in a bankruptcy proceeding; prohibiting insolvency administrators from allowing relatives to render services associated with the bankruptcy proceeding; and establishing fines for members of management that violate certain obligations or prohibitions.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

✔ Trading across borders
South Africa reduced the time and documents required to export and import through its ongoing customs modernization program.
Spain

✓ Trading across borders
Spain reduced the time to import by further expanding the use of electronic submission of customs declarations and improving the sharing of information among customs and other agencies.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Spain strengthened its insolvency process by making workouts easier, offering more protections for refinancing agreements, allowing conversion from reorganization into liquidation at any time, allowing reliefs of the stay under certain circumstances and permitting the judge to determine whether an asset of the insolvent company is necessary for its continued operation.

Employing workers
Spain temporarily allowed unlimited duration of fixed-term contracts.

Sri Lanka

✓ Starting a business
Sri Lanka made starting a business easier by computerizing and expediting the process of obtaining a registration number for the Employees Provident Fund and Employees Trust Fund.

✓ Registering property
Sri Lanka made registering property faster by introducing an electronic system at the land registry in Colombo.

✓ Getting credit
Sri Lanka strengthened its secured transactions system by establishing an electronic, searchable collateral registry and issuing regulations for its operation.

✓ Trading across borders
Sri Lanka reduced the time to export by implementing the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system.

St. Kitts and Nevis

✗ Trading across borders
St. Kitts and Nevis made it more expensive to export by increasing the cost of operations at the port of Basseterre.

Suriname

✗ Trading across borders
Suriname increased the time to export by involving more customs departments in clearing exports.

Swaziland

✓ Paying taxes
Swaziland introduced a value added tax.

Sweden

✗ Registering property
In Sweden property transfers became more time consuming during implementation of a new information technology system at the land registry.

Syrian Arab Republic

✓ Getting credit
Syria improved access to credit information by establishing an online system for data exchange between all banks and microfinance institutions and the central bank’s credit registry.

Taiwan, China

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Taiwan, China, made dealing with construction permits easier by introducing a risk-based and self-regulatory inspection system and improving operational features of the one-stop shop for building permits.

✓ Protecting investors
Taiwan, China, strengthened investor protections by increasing disclosure requirements for related-party transactions and improving the liability regime for company directors in cases where such transactions are abusive.

Tajikistan

✓ Protecting investors
Tajikistan strengthened investor protections by making it easier to sue directors in cases of prejudicial related-party transactions.

Togo

✓ Starting a business
Togo increased the wage premium for weekly holiday work and the severance payment in cases of redundancy dismissal.

Togo

✓ Starting a business
Togo made starting a business easier by allowing the registrar at the Department of Business Development to receive the company’s work regulations.

✓ Paying taxes
Thailand made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

Timor-Leste

Employing workers
Timor-Leste reduced the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts and also introduced a wage premium for night work.

Trinidad and Tobago

✓ Registering property
In Trinidad and Tobago property transfers became faster thanks to speedier issuance of clearance certificates by the Water and Sewerage Authority.

✓ Trading across borders
Trinidad and Tobago reduced the time to export and import by launching the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system and simplifying the process for obtaining a certificate of origin.

Turkey

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Turkey made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to build a shelter in nonresidential buildings with a total area of less than 1,500 square meters.

✓ Enforcing contracts
Turkey made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a new civil procedure law.

Thailand

✓ Starting a business
Thailand made starting a business easier by allowing the registrar at the Department of Business Development to receive the company’s work regulations.

✓ Paying taxes
Thailand made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

Togo

✓ Starting a business
Togo made starting a business easier by allowing the registrar at the Department of Business Development to receive the company’s work regulations.

✓ Paying taxes
Thailand made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the profit tax rate.

Timor-Leste

Employing workers
Timor-Leste reduced the maximum duration of fixed-term contracts and also introduced a wage premium for night work.

Trinidad and Tobago

✓ Registering property
In Trinidad and Tobago property transfers became faster thanks to speedier issuance of clearance certificates by the Water and Sewerage Authority.

✓ Trading across borders
Trinidad and Tobago reduced the time to export and import by launching the ASYCUDA World electronic data interchange system and simplifying the process for obtaining a certificate of origin.

Turkey

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Turkey made dealing with construction permits easier by eliminating the requirement to build a shelter in nonresidential buildings with a total area of less than 1,500 square meters.

✓ Enforcing contracts
Turkey made enforcing contracts easier by introducing a new civil procedure law.
UGANDA

✓ Registering property
Uganda made transferring property more difficult by introducing a requirement for property purchasers to obtain an income tax certificate before registration, resulting in delays at the Uganda Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Finance. At the same time, Uganda made it easier by digitizing records at the title registry, increasing efficiency at the assessor’s office and making it possible for more banks to accept the stamp duty payment.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Uganda strengthened its insolvency process by clarifying rules on the creation of mortgages, establishing the duties of mortgagors and mortgagees, defining priority rules, providing remedies for mortgagors and mortgagees and establishing the powers of receivers.

UKRAINE

✓ Starting a business
Ukraine made starting a business easier by eliminating the minimum capital requirement for company incorporation as well as the requirement to have incorporation documents notarized.

✓ Registering property
Ukraine made property transfers faster by introducing an effective time limit for processing transfer applications at the land cadastre in Kiev.

✓ Paying taxes
Ukraine made paying taxes easier by implementing electronic filing and payment for medium-size and large enterprises.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

✓ Starting a business
The United Arab Emirates made starting a business easier by eliminating the requirement for a company to prepare a name board in English and Arabic after having received clearance on the use of office premises.

✓ Getting electricity
In the United Arab Emirates the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority made getting electricity easier by introducing an electronic “one window, one step” application process allowing customers to submit and track their applications online and reducing the time for processing the applications.

✓ Paying taxes
The United Arab Emirates made paying taxes easier for companies by establishing an online filing and payment system for social security contributions.

UNITED KINGDOM

✓ Paying taxes
The United Kingdom made paying taxes less costly for companies by reducing the corporate income tax rate.

✓ Employment workers
The United Kingdom increased the severance pay applicable in cases of redundancy dismissal.

URUGUAY

✓ Paying taxes
Uruguay made paying taxes easier for small and medium-size companies by fully implementing an electronic filing and payment system for capital, value added and corporate income taxes and by improving the online facilities for social security contributions.

✓ Trading across borders
Uruguay reduced the time to import by improving port efficiency and introducing electronic payment and predeclaration systems for customs.

UZBEKISTAN

✓ Starting a business
Uzbekistan made starting a business easier by introducing an online facility for name reservation and eliminating the fee to open a bank account for small businesses.

✓ Getting credit
Uzbekistan improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers’ right to inspect their personal data.

✓ Trading across borders
Uzbekistan reduced the time to export by introducing a single window for customs clearance and reduced the number of documents needed for each import transaction.

✓ Resolving insolvency
Uzbekistan strengthened its insolvency process by introducing new time limits for insolvency proceedings and new time limits and procedures for the second auction and by making it possible for businesses to continue operating throughout the liquidation proceeding.

VANUATU

✓ Dealing with construction permits
Vanuatu made obtaining a construction permit more cumbersome by making a preliminary environmental assessment mandatory and made it more expensive by increasing the fees.

VENEZUELA, RB

✓ Starting a business
República Bolivariana de Venezuela made starting a business more difficult by increasing the cost of company incorporation.

✓ Paying taxes
República Bolivariana de Venezuela made paying taxes more costly and difficult for companies by introducing a sports, physical activities and physical education tax.

✓ Employment workers
República Bolivariana de Venezuela introduced a new labor code that prohibits redundancy dismissals.

VIETNAM

✓ Starting a business
Vietnam made starting a business easier by allowing companies to use self-printed value added tax invoices.

WEST BANK AND GAZA

✓ Registering property
West Bank and Gaza made transferring property more costly by increasing the property transfer fee.

✓ Getting credit
West Bank and Gaza improved access to credit information by guaranteeing borrowers’ right to inspect their personal data.

ZAMBIA

✓ Resolving insolvency
Zambia strengthened its insolvency process by introducing further qualification requirements for receivers and liquidators and by establishing specific duties and remuneration rules for them.