Summary of the RTE Impact Assessment

Generally speaking, all of the processes considered, can result in cost savings or gain in use. The RTE solutions for public accounting and public administration have a dual impact on GDP. During development projects, the impact on GDP will be positive, as public investment and expenditure will increase. Later, the impact will be negative, as public expenditure will decrease compared to the time before the RTE development project. This stems from the fact that public expenditure is included in output for the purpose of calculating GDP. If costs are reduced, output will also decrease.

In the private sector, GDP is positively affected by RTE’s developments, which makes production more efficient, so that companies can produce more and market products at the same cost. If cost savings are achieved, for example only in accounting, then neither revenue nor GDP will directly increase. Money is saved, but the impact on GDP depends more on how that money is reinvested. The impact on the private sector during RTE development projects is negative, as people involved in production are involved in projects that do not immediately generate additional production.

The impact of RTE on time and money savings is different, but it varies with the solutions. It is important to make savings in the public sector where, in the absence of a RTE solution, some processes cannot be carried out or their results are inadequate, since the real raw data is not available in a reasonable time or cost. An example here is the compilation of transport statistics. The data is collected through a questionnaire for statistics. It is related to thousands of people and their time spent on data submission and processing. The end result is not accurate because similar accounting may not be consistently maintained within the company. Estimated data, or no data at all, shall be provided under the pretext that the vehicle was stationary or under repair during the reference period. Statistics Estonia compiles statistics on the basis of the submitted data.

Revenue growth is primarily generated by processes where the RTE solution is directly related to the automation of production or service delivery. The impact is smaller if the solution is only about automating ancillary activities. The RTE solution must actually interfere with the production or service delivery process. Intervention means that the RTE solution does something for the person in such a way that the individual can work on it to create additional value, that translates into greater output. As the main topic for RTE is information technology solutions, contributing to efficiency gains can most often be based on the indicators of a specific situation in the generation of information about the next steps, ie work planning and forecasting. Replacing human activities in production would involve the use of physical robotics based on a calculated plan. Such systems are no longer rare in manufacturing companies, as well as in agriculture, where professional techniques are programmable and capable of performing work without constant human supervision.
Figure: Impact summary of observed processes

This figure shows the numerical values aggregated across all processes evaluated in the work. There is no direct income increase as it only occurs in the processing of agricultural data (ca EUR 200 million per year). Reported financial savings in euros per year. It was found that switching to RTE solutions in selected processes will save more than € 210 million a year.

This figure shows that the reduction of GHG emissions from the use of the solutions considered is approximately 28 thousand tonnes per year. In the project impact calculator, it is possible to view the effects of RTE transition by process at both micro and macro levels.

See more: Interactive impact calculator