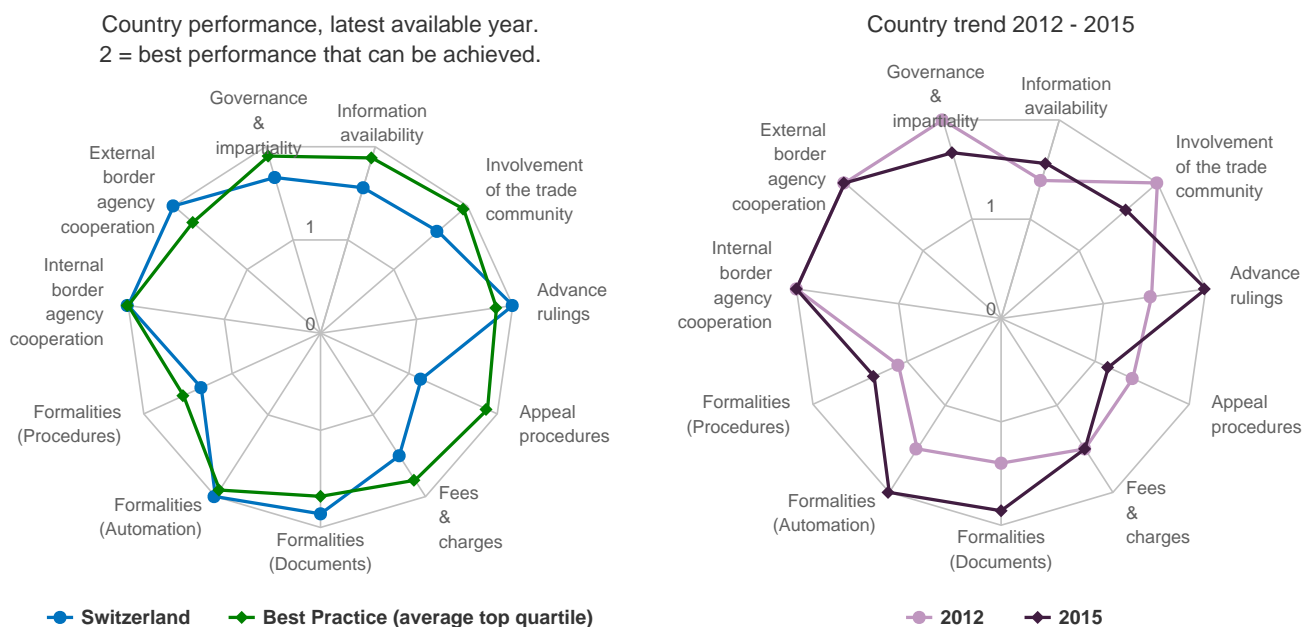


## Trade Facilitation Indicators Country note - Switzerland

### Trade facilitation performance

Switzerland matches or exceeds best performance across the sample as regards advance rulings, simplification of documents, automation and border agency cooperation (internal and external). Performance has improved between 2012 and 2015 in the areas of information availability, advance rulings, simplification of documents, automation and streamlining of border procedures.

Performance in the other areas is stable, with the exception of the involvement of the trade community, appeal procedures and governance and impartiality, where some ground was lost. Performance in the areas of information availability, involvement of the trade community, appeal procedures, fees and charges, streamlining of border procedures and governance and impartiality continues to be below best performance.



### Areas for Action

For the group of developed countries to which Switzerland belongs, the assessment of the impact of trade facilitation measures, both on bilateral trade flows and on trade costs, shows that reforms with the greatest benefit are in the areas of information availability, advance rulings, fees and charges, automation and streamlining of procedures.

Taking into account the trade flow increase and costs reduction potential of the policy areas highlighted above and considering the areas where Switzerland has not yet reached best performance, Switzerland would benefit from continued improvements in the following:

#### Information availability:

Improve the operation of Customs hotlines

Improve the availability of information about penalties for breaches of import and export formalities and judicial decisions

#### Fees and charges:

Avoid the calculation of fees and charges on an ad valorem basis

#### Formalities – procedures:

Complete the development of the Single Window currently under elaboration

Publish the average release time consistently and on a periodic basis, for major Customs offices

Expand the use of pre-arrival processing and of post-clearance audits.

## **Definitions for Trade Facilitation Indicators**

*Information availability:* Publication of trade information, including on internet; enquiry points

*Involvement of the trade community:* Consultations with traders

*Advance rulings:* Prior statements by the administration to requesting traders concerning the classification, origin, valuation method, etc., applied to specific goods at the time of importation; the rules and process applied to such statements

*Appeal procedures:* The possibility and modalities to appeal administrative decisions by border agencies

*Fees & charges:* Disciplines on the fees and charges imposed on imports and exports

*Formalities (Documents):* Electronic exchange of data; automated border procedures; use of risk management

*Formalities (Automation):* Simplification of trade documents; harmonisation in accordance with international standards; acceptance of copies

*Formalities (Procedures):* Streamlining of border controls; single submission points for all required documentation (single windows); post-clearance audits; authorised economic operators

*Internal border agency cooperation:* Co-operation between various border agencies of the country; control delegation to customs authorities

*External border agency cooperation:* Co-operation with neighbouring and third countries

*Governance & impartiality:* Customs structures and functions; accountability; ethics policy