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of what information will be exchanged and when, as set out in the Standard.[7] As of July 2015[update], 53 jurisdictions had signed the agreement to automatically exchange information.[8] As of July 2016[update] 83 jurisdictions had signed the agreement.[7] All European Union (EU) countries, China, India, Hong Kong, Russia and 109 countries altogether have agreed[when?] to become signatories.[9] Yet many countries will not participate in the automatic information exchange.[10] Many of those that have not signed are small countries. In April 2016, shortly after the release of the controversial Panama papers, Panama adopted the Multilateral Competent Authorities Agreement (MCAA).[11] and signed the MCAA in Paris in January 2018 joining the CRS MCAA as the 98th jurisdiction.[12] In the United States, a different cross-border tax compliance approach is promoted through the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). [citation needed] The U.S. receives information relating to US citizens' accounts from many countries due to the compliance requirements of the FATCA. The United States, in many cases, will reciprocate by sharing banking data with countries which their citizens hold in the U.S., but not automatically, as is required by the U.S. in FATCA.[13] In 2023, the Common Reporting Standard and the related MCAA became part of the International Standards for Automatic Exchange of Information in Tax Matters.[14] That new agreement specifically reflects the agreement by the OECD of a new exchange of information standard applicable to crypto-assets, the Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework, commonly referred to as CARF. However, the OECD members also agreed a substantial number of changes to the CRS regime itself, designed to improve compliance. The information and its exchange formats are governed by a detailed standard,[16] name, address, Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) and date each place of birth of each Reportable Person, Account number and identifying number of the reporting financial institution; Account balance or value as of the end of the relevant calendar year (or the appropriate reporting period, or the date of the transaction) was required. Dispositions made by a Reportable Person, interest, gains, proceeds, redemptions, other) of the FATCA. The Standard requires financial institutions operating in a country to adopt specific and diligent procedures to determine the customers' country of residence. The Standard also includes all banks and most entities, as well as certain insurance companies. The Standard also requires these report information to the domestic tax authority annually, by 30 September, for onward exchange with other jurisdictions. The tax compliance tool used by the Standard is the 'self-certification' of tax residence, which is required to be completed by all individuals and most entities who open an 'in scope' financial account. Financial accounts are generally in scope where they represent assets of the individual or entity, such as bank accounts, investments in bonds or equities, or investments into collective investment vehicles. Loans, credit cards and other financial products are not in scope for reporting.[17] As a result, most individuals opening bank accounts in participating countries will be asked for the tax residence and, if they are not resident in the country in which they are opening the account, their Taxpayer Identification Number.[18] The Standard allows some discretion for each national authority to determine the due diligence approach, but only within minimum standards determined by the OECD. "The term "reportable account" means a [Jurisdiction A] reportable account or a [Jurisdiction B] reportable account, depending on the context, provided it has been identified as such pursuant to due diligence procedures, consistent with the Annex, in place in [Jurisdiction A] or [Jurisdiction B]."^[16] The OECD conducts peer reviews of jurisdictions to ensure compliance with the Standard and requires jurisdictions with deficiencies to correct domestic laws or guidance to bring their approach into line with the OECD's minimum standards.[19] Compliance with the Common Reporting Standard (CRS) can be challenging for financial institutions, resulting in common reporting errors that may incur penalties.[20] Key categories of CRS errors include: frequent errors include missing Tax Identification Numbers (TINs), incomplete dates of birth, and outdated account holder details. Regular data review and implementing procedures to solicit missing information are essential for accuracy.[21][22] Misclassifying account holders, such as passive NFEs as active NFEs, disrupts compliance. Detailed, consistent classification protocols and quality control checks are recommended to mitigate these issues.[23][24] Data formatting issues, including XML schema errors, invalid characters, and incorrect date formats, often lead to report rejections. Using XML validation tools and enforcing standards for character encoding and date formats can minimize these errors.[25][26] Misunderstandings regarding reporting thresholds and applicable exemptions often result in non-compliance. Regular audits, comprehensive staff training, and automated checks are crucial to ensure accurate interpretation and application of CRS requirements.[citation needed] The European Union adopted the CRS on 1 January 2016 after amending the Directive on Administrative Cooperation in the field of taxation (Directive 2011/16). First reports were submitted by September 2017 and subsequently exchanged between jurisdictions. As of June 2017, the following countries committed to start reporting in 2017: Anguilla, Argentina, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Bulgaria, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Croatia, Curacao, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Georgia, Greece, Greenland, Guernsey, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Jersey, Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands, Niue, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Seychelles, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United Kingdom[27] Starting to report in 2018: Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belize, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ghana, Grenada, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Marshall Islands, Macau, Malaysia, Mauritius, Monaco, Nauru, New Zealand, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sint Maarten, Turkey, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Vanuatu[27] Starting to report in 2024: Ukraine.[28] The OECD maintains a full list of participants, which includes details of primary legislation, guidance and other relevant information.[29] Of the 154 countries which have signed on the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes,[30] the following countries have not signed on to the CRS:[31] Complete list as of June 2017: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Guatemala, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Kingdom of Lesotho, Liberia, Maldives, Moldova, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, North Macedonia, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United States.[31] As of June 2019, 59 countries have not signed the CRS Standard:[32][33][34] Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, East Timor, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, North Korea, Palau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, Vatican City State, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe. In 2016, a legal expert complained that the CRS has a much more ambitious scope, however, and modelling the standard on the FATCA rules has created problems for implementing it in Europe".[35] And a "private sector advocacy group representing financial services and law firms" went even further seeing a "showdown" between the two regimes.[36] In developed countries, the introduction of the CRS has raised professional concerns about the protection of privacy rights for clients of certain legal entities, such as trusts, where protection of sensitive financial information from public disclosure safeguards the beneficiaries against potential financial exploitation and ensures discretion in personal and family matters.[37] Transparency groups have reacted in various ways, some of them criticising how developing countries were (not) considered and involved.[38] Collecting and providing information can be so costly and difficult for developing countries obviating participation in the scheme. Instead of offering a period of non-reciprocity, where developing countries could simply receive financial data, the only mention of non-reciprocity agreements is catering to tax havens who do not receive information from other jurisdictions since they would have no use for it (such jurisdictions are still required to provide information under CRS).[38] While tax havens will have to provide some information, they can use a number of loopholes (unequal standards for how information is shared e.g.) and also elect not to receive any info in return.[38] The Financial Transparency Coalition criticised the access cost of \$73 to download OECD's report itself, being "a perfect illustration of why this process needs to include low income countries from the start".[38] The OECD conducts peer reviews to check compliance by each jurisdiction, as well as reviewing compliance to identify risks in compliance and loopholes. It opened a website for whistle-blowers to anonymously report CRS violations including for pensions, insurance, and citizenship-for-sale tools. The OECD has investigated and labeled specifically as "low-risk" an investment tool in Hong Kong called ORS (Occupational Retirement Scheme) which is classified as a "non-reporting financial institutions" and can be used to bypass CRS guidelines and can be used to effectively be like a shell company.[39] The OECD has also published Model Mandates, Disclosure Rule for CRS Avoidance Arrangements and Opaque Offshore Structures.[40] These rules require intermediaries, like tax advisors, law firms and others to report to their domestic tax authority if they advise on ways to circumvent reporting under the CRS. As of January 2023, 109 countries have committed to implementing these rules,[41] although all EU Member States and the UK have already implemented these rules as part of an amendment to the Directive on Administrative Cooperation in the field of Taxation (Directive 2011/16), Exchange of Information on Tax and Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes Quality Assurance Standard. On 16 May 2023, the OECD's Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes Quality Assurance Standard, "CRS MCAA Standard", was adopted. "CRS MCAA Standard" is like a Global FATCA".[42] DBFS Financial Consultants, "CRS MCAA Standard", timeline and structure of Information of FATCA and CRS www.dbfs.co.uk, DBFS Financial Consultants Services, March 2015. 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