



■ WeBER Indicator Summary

AREA: ACCOUNTABILITY

MACEDONIA

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PAR Area	ACCOUNTABILITY	Country	MACEDONIA
SIGMA Principle	2. The right to access public information is enacted in legislation and consistently applied in practice		

WeBER Indicator	ACC_P2_I2: Proactive informing of the public by public authorities
Indicator approach	
<p>This indicator focuses on the proactivity of public authorities in informing the public, particularly through comprehensiveness, timeliness and clarity of information disseminated through official websites. Indicator consists of 18 elements (sub-indicators), assessing relevant information against two groups of criteria: 1) completeness and up-to-date, 2) accessibility and citizen-friendliness. The element related to open data in public administration, as a proactive way of informing the public, is assessed using separate criteria. Analysis was done on the sample of seven central administration institutions, consisting of three line ministries, one ministry with general planning and coordination function, one government office/agency with CoG function, one subordinate body/agency and one government office/agency in charge of delivering services.</p>	
Summary of the findings	
<p>The institutions do not provide sufficient information on their scope of work and do not invest sufficient effort to deliver this information in a friendly manner that anyone can grasp. Several institutions include information only about their Minister. Most of the sample institutions also do not inform who they are accountable to, therefore an average citizen cannot easily understand the hierarchy or functioning of the administration. The institutions in the sample have a general tendency to publish all relevant laws and regularly update any changes. However, policy documents are less available. These documents are not presented in a citizen friendly manner (there is no introduction to the content of the documents; they are purely listed, and very often scattered around the websites and difficult to find). Sample institutions do not publish policy papers or analyses; even those rare publications that are available, are very difficult to access, being often produced as part of projects (with one exception).</p> <p>At the time of measurement, sample institutions (with two exceptions) had <u>no published</u> annual reports on their work. Also, none of the institutions had their budget publicly available (one slight exception). Similarly, the institutions did not have their organigrams available. All sample institutions (with one exception) had complete, up to date and functional contact information, at easily accessible locations. Most of the institutions have media contacts and contacts for request on public information, but no contacts or information on cooperation with civil society and other external stakeholders. Public consultation processes are published under "Information" or "Announcements" but are not easily accessible and their location on the websites is often not evident.</p> <p>Apart from MOIA, which provides information on open data generally, websites of sample institutions do not contain open datasets or links to the MOIA catalogue on open data.</p>	
Specific observations	
<p>Namely, since the new government took office on the 1st of June, it has stated that it is committed to advance the transparency and accountability of the public administration. Even more, on the 27th of November the government has issued a statement (after its 34th government session) presenting a list of documents that the ministries should publish according to the law. Thus, while there have not been significant changes in the information pertaining to the scope of work, the presentation of relevant documents and availability of policy paper and analyses; now most of the institutions have published annual reports; budgets and organigrams. However, the contacts relevant for cooperation with CSOs are still not visible and separate sections on public consultation processes are an exception rather than a practice. Another important matter that should be emphasized is the case of the website of the General Secretariat. The site is still only accessible through a web search engine, while on the main website of the government it is nowhere listed. However, in the list above mentioned, documents which are relevant for the work of the General Secretariat have been published directly on the website of the government under different sections.</p>	

Indicator score	<i>3 (out of 56 points)</i>
Final indicator value	<i>0 (scale 0 – 5) ¹</i>
Measurement period	<i>September 20th – October 10th 2017</i>

¹ Conversion of points: 0-15 points = 0; 16-24 points = 1; 25-32 points = 2; 33-40 points =3; 41-48 points = 4; 49-56 points = 5