



■ WeBER Indicator Summary

AREA: PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

SERBIA

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PAR Area	PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT	Country	SERBIA
SIGMA Principle	5. Transparent budget reporting and scrutiny are ensured		

WeBER Indicator	PFM_P5_I1: Transparency and accessibility of budgetary documents
Indicator approach	
<p>Elements of this indicator cover the key budgetary documents: annual budget, and budget execution reports – monthly, mid-year, and year-end. First three elements focus on ease of access of documents on official websites of responsible institutions. Remaining elements look into transparency and quality of data from these documents, in relation to citizen-friendliness, performance information and open data. For all elements of this indicator analysis of available budgetary information and documents from the website of ministries responsible for finance is performed, unless specified otherwise.</p>	
Summary of the findings	
<p>Enacted annual budget documents (Law on Budget for 2018, and 2017) are easily accessible at the official website of the Ministry of Finance. Previous versions of the annual budget laws (2017 and older versions) are kept in the archive of the legal acts, whereas annual budget for the current fiscal year is available at the homepage.</p> <p>When it comes to reporting on budget execution i.e. realisation of planned revenues and expenditures on a monthly level, the Ministry publishes budgetary data in the monthly publication Public Finance Bulletin which is also easily accessible. Information therein is broken down per different state levels – central, provincial, local, and consolidated with data on previous months of the same year. At the time of monitoring, out of the last six months observed (December 2017 – May 2018), four in-year monthly reports were available. Nevertheless, mid-year reports are not published at the Ministry's website. Six-month budget execution reports for previous two fiscal years (2017 and 2016) were submitted to the parliament and are accessible at the website of the National Assembly. Moreover, except for data presenting expenditure per economic classification, none of budget reports considered (monthly, mid-year, and year-end report) present expenditure data per organisational or functional spending. It should be noted that the Law on Final Account of the Budget has not been adopted by the parliament since 2002. Yet, year-end annual budget execution data, presented in the State Audit Institution's report on the mandatory audit of the final account of the 2016 budget, contains some budgetary information at the organisational and programme level. Yet, non-financial performance information on the results achieved by the Government in relation to the budget spending is not being reported on.</p> <p>On a different note, citizen-friendly version of the annual budget is regularly produced and published at the website of the Ministry of Finance since 2015. However, the Ministry does not store previous versions at the exact same website location as the current one for 2018, and all the previous Citizen Budget documents can be found by using search option. Finally, the Ministry publishes annual data on executed budget in .XLS format on (including data on macroeconomic trends, public debt, and budget execution of revenues and expenditures for different state levels), freely downloadable and covering a number of fiscal years.</p>	
Specific observations	
None.	

Indicator score	12 (out of 24 points) ¹
Final indicator value	2 (scale 0-5)
Measurement period	June 11 th – 15 th , 2018

¹ Conversion of points: 0-4 points = 0; 5-8 points = 1; 9-12 points = 2; 13-16 points = 3; 17-20 points = 4; 21-24 points = 5.