



■ WeBER Indicator Summary

AREA: PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT

SERBIA

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PAR Area	PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT	Country	SERBIA
SIGMA Principle	<p>6. The operational framework for internal control defines responsibilities and powers, and its application by the budget organisations is consistent with the legislation governing public financial management and the public administration in general.</p> <p>8. The operational framework for internal audit reflects international standards, and its application by the budget organisations is consistent with the legislation governing public administration and public financial management in general.</p>		

WeBER Indicator	PFM_P6_P8_I1: Public availability of information on public internal financial controls and the parliamentary scrutiny
Indicator approach	
<p>The indicator measures availability and communication of essential documents and information on public internal financial control (PIFC) to the public and other stakeholders, and if reports on PIFC implementation are discussed in the Parliament.</p> <p>PIFC constitutive parts relevant for this indicator are: financial management and control (FMC), and internal audit, including Central Harmonisation Units (CHU) – units of the ministries in charge of finance tasked with consolidated reporting on PIFC and its harmonisation within public sector.</p> <p>All elements under this indicator are measured by analysing official websites and documents of relevant government institutions.</p>	
Summary of the findings	
<p>Central Harmonisation Unit of the Ministry of Finance produces consolidated reports on PIFC, by collecting individual inputs of budget beneficiaries. These reports are regularly published at the CHU website. However, at the time of measurement, consolidated reports published online covered the annual reporting cycles from 2009 until 2016. For this reason, it is assessed that consolidated reports are published irregularly i.e. out of the last two reporting cycles they are published only for 2016, and no strict legal deadline for the submission of consolidated reports, or for making them publicly available is set (see specific observations).</p> <p>On a different note, CHU has started recently to produce quality review reports of internal audit functioning on a sample of budget beneficiaries, which are publicly available at the CHU website. Two reports are published to date for the last two reporting cycles, which indicates the practice of regularity of producing and publishing these quality reviews since 2016.</p> <p>When it comes to publishing information on financial management and control at the official websites of ministries (risk registers, book of procedures, and information on the appointed FMC manager), at least one piece of information is available for only 4 out total 18 ministries indicating that there is uneven practice, and more importantly, that any FMC related information is hardly available online.</p> <p>There is, however, some proactive engagement with the public – the Ministry of Finance, and the CHU, informed the public in 2018 through press releases and media appearances on ongoing developments in PIFC policy with regards to external assistance support to further strengthening of PIFC. However, more advanced proactive engagement has not been determined such as reader friendly approach to publishing reports, publishing promo materials such as leaflets and booklets, or active social media activity.</p> <p>Finally, there is no evidence that the Parliament reviewed consolidated PIFC reports, either in plenary or through relevant parliamentary committees for the last two reporting cycles.</p>	
Specific observations	
<p>Consolidated reports on PIFC for 2015 and 2016 are dated with December 2016 and September 2017 respectively. Meaning, the CHU publishes these reports regularly since 2009, but there is a trend of publishing them at the end of the current year for the previous one.</p>	

Indicator score	4 (out of 12 points)
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Final indicator value	<i>1 (scale 0-5)¹</i>
Measurement period	<i>2nd July, 2018</i>

¹ Conversion of points: 0-2 points = 0; 3-4 points = 1; 5-6 points = 2; 7-8 points = 3; 9-10 points = 4; 11-12 points = 5.