



■ 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_I1: Civil society perception of the quality of legislation and practice of access to public information
Indicator approach	
<p><i>This indicator focuses on the scope of right to access public information and if enforcement is enabling civil society to exercise this right in a meaningful manner. The entire indicator is based on an online perception survey, which is conducted widely among the civil society in each country, given that civil society organisations have vast experience in the application of the freedom of information legislation and rely on it strongly in their work. As representativeness of the sample is almost impossible to achieve, researchers ensure wide dissemination to various sectors and types of organisations, nation-wide.</i></p>	
Summary of the findings	
<p><i>17.5% of surveyed CSOs agree that public authorities record sufficient information to enable the public to fulfil the right to free access of information of public importance. While a sizable portion of surveyed CSOs (36.8%) thinks that the legislation prescribes adequate exceptions to the public character of information produced by public authorities, only 15.8% thinks that these exceptions are adequately applied in practice. (N=57 for the three data points)</i></p> <p><i>With regard to their experiences with requests to information, around half of surveyed CSOs have little to no problem with accessing information in their requested format within prescribed deadlines. 50% state that the information is often or always in the requested format, while 53.6% report that it is often or always within prescribed deadlines. The vast majority of surveyed CSOs (89.3%) confirm that often or always the information is provided free of charge. However, almost half (42.9%) of surveyed CSOs report that often or always the person requesting access is asked to provide reasons for such a request.</i></p> <p><i>With regard to information that contains classified materials or personal data materials, a small portion (17.8%) of surveyed CSOs confirm that often or always non-classified portions of these materials are released when requesting access to information that contains classified materials. However, this proportion increases to 42.9% for personal data materials. On the other hand, only 14.3% of CSOs think that rarely or never portions of requested materials are released to mislead the requesting persons with partial information.</i></p> <p><i>A small portion of surveyed CSOs (28.6%) agree or strongly agree that the Ministry of Justice sets sufficiently high standards of the right to access public information through its practice. 28.6% believe that soft measures issued by the Ministry are effective in protecting access to information. 32.1% agree or strongly agree that the sanctions prescribed for the violation of the right to free access information lead to sufficiently grave consequences for the responsible persons in the non-compliant authorities.</i></p>	
Specific observations	
<p><i>Survey of CSOs was administered through anonymous, online questionnaire. The data collection method included CASI (computer-assisted self-interviewing). N=74, the base for questions in this indicator was n=57 respondents, and n=28 for CSOs that answered yes to the question "Have you sent a FOI request in the past two years?"</i></p>	

Indicator score	8 (out of 34 points)
Final indicator value	1 (scale 0 – 5) ¹

¹ Conversion of points: 0-6 points = 0; 7-11 points = 1; 12-17 points = 2; 18-23 points = 3; 24-28 points = 4; 29-34 points = 5.

Measurement period

Survey of CSOs: April 23rd – June 7th 2018