



■ WeBER Indicator Summary

AREA: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

SERBIA

- **Author: European Policy Centre - CEP**
- **Date: 07.06.2018**

PAR Area	POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION	Country	SERBIA
SIGMA Principle	6. Government decisions are prepared in a transparent manner and based on the administrations' professional judgement; legal conformity of the decisions is ensured		

WeBER Indicator	PDC_P6_I1: Transparency of the Government's decision-making
Indicator approach	
<p>The indicator measures the extent of transparency of Government's decision-making process. It combines perceptions and expert analysis in order to ensure a balance between the two approaches. Two elements are measured by conducting an online survey of CSOs, and three elements by expert analysis of relevant governmental websites.</p> <p>Elements of transparency measured by this indicator include: publishing of information on the decisions of governments, their completeness, citizen-friendliness, timeliness, and consistency. Decision-making denotes decisions made by the Government (as a collegiate body) and adopted at government's sessions in the period from October 1st to December 31st, 2017.</p>	
Summary of the findings	
<p>Perception of the civil society in Serbia on transparency of the decision-making by the Government is at the low level. Only slightly above 12% of respondents agree that the decision-making process is transparent, and even less that the exceptions to requirements for publishing decisions of the Government is appropriate – 10.2% (percentages include respondents that answered 'strongly agree' or 'agree').</p> <p>Along the same line, the Government of Serbia in practice does not publish all decisions online, at the official website. Out of four group of documents and materials analysed, there is regularity in publishing adopted documents from the individual sessions of the Government, and press releases immediately after the session. On the other hand, agenda items are as a rule not shared with public neither before nor after the sessions, and the same qualifies for minutes of the individual sessions. Yet, not every single session is followed by a press release, although there is a clear structure of press release sections online for both ministries and the Government. Moreover, adopted decisions are made public and are available for download (law proposals, strategies and their action plans, bylaws etc.), however absence of the agenda of sessions precludes the assessment whether all decisions are fully made public (except for those labelled as confidential). In practice, the Government does not publish its conclusions, the acts used for adoption of many decisions of public interest. On a different note, press releases that are available are largely written in citizen-friendly language, in the form of news articles that explain the Government's decisions. Bureaucratic terminology is still present when stating titles of official documents and names of institutions. In addition, all press releases are easily accessible with no more than three clicks from the homepage. Finally, adopted decisions referred to previously, are almost entirely published timely within one week after the session. Nevertheless, as neither agenda items nor meeting minutes are being published, it is assessed that the Government partially communicates its decisions in a timely manner, and that the overall transparency of the decision-making is very low.</p>	
Specific observations	
<p>Survey of CSOs was administered through anonymous, online questionnaire. The data collection method included CASI (computer-assisted self-interviewing). N=183, the base for two questions n=157 respondents.</p>	

Indicator score	4 (out of 16 points)
Final indicator value	1 (scale 0-5) ¹
Measurement period	October – January 2018; Survey of CSOs: April 23 rd – June 4 th 2018

¹ Conversion of points: 0-2 points = 0; 3-5 points = 1; 6-8 points = 2; 9-11 points = 3; 12-14 points = 4; 15-16 points = 5.