



# ■ WeBER Indicator Summary

AREA: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

## MONTENEGRO

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

<b>WeBER Indicator</b>	<b>PDC_P6_I1: Transparency of the Government's decision-making</b>
<b>Indicator approach</b>	
<p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017.</i></p>	
<b>Summary of the findings</b>	
<p><i>When it comes to the extent of transparency of Government's decision-making process, the results of the perception survey and expert analysis do not match. While the perception survey shows the Montenegrin CSOs as the most critical of this aspect of Government's work in the region, the analysis shows that the Government of Montenegro has established a practice of publishing materials from its sessions, that can be considered a regional best practice.</i></p> <p><i>Only 7.3% of surveyed CSOs say that Government's decision-making process is transparent, while over half of CSOs claim the opposite (56%). Similarly, a negligible percentage of CSOs (2.5%) say that the exceptions to the requirements to publish Government's decisions are appropriate. This makes Montenegrin CSOs by far the most sceptical in the region, when it comes to transparency of governmental decision-making.</i></p> <p><i>In 2012, the Government adopted the Decision that regulates how the materials from its sessions are published. In accordance with the Decision, there is a special section of the website devoted to sessions of the Government, visible in the main navigation of the governmental website. In this section, each session has its own link and webpage that contains the list of all the points on the agenda. At the each session's webpage, the name of the point of the agenda is published, the document is linked, and the conclusions of the Government related to it are published (if there are any, as some documents are just „verified“ or reviewed without discussions, the Government is just being informed and no conclusions are adopted). Minutes of the Government sessions are not published as a separate document, as they are not identified as one of the documents that needs to be published by the Decision.</i></p> <p><i>Materials are published in a timely manner. Decision on publishing the materials from the Government's sessions prescribes the deadline of seven days from the adopting of the conclusions from the Government (at the day of the session) for the materials to be published. In practice, all the materials are published at the same day of the session, or the day after at the latest. The Government occasionally publishes the draft agenda ahead of the session, although this practice is often disregarded. Important caveat in the analysis of government decision-making transparency is tied to confidential materials.</i></p> <p><i>After each session, a general press release is published that covers more significant points of the agenda. It does not outline the details of individual discussions on separate points of the agenda. Immediately after the session, the ministers have their press conferences on more important materials that were adopted (usually, new bills or strategic acts and reports). Press releases are then published on the Government's website (containing video and audio recordings of the statements with a brief summary of what was discussed). Analysis of the press releases from the Government sessions shows very little effort to make the information more "readable" or citizen friendly - the names of the documents are usually copy-pasted and their purpose provided in technical and bureaucratic language.</i></p> <p><i>At the time of the session, the press release is published on the homepage of the Government, and available in</i></p>	

*one click. However, there is no special category, tag or section that would enable listing / filtering of all past press releases from the Government's session.*

*The website where the materials of the Government's sessions are published is available on the main navigation bar of the Government's homepage, and all the sessions are visible as hyperlinks to agenda and documents. Therefore, citizens can easily access the data in 2 clicks.*

#### **Specific observations**

*Survey of CSOs was administered through anonymous, online questionnaire. The data collection method included CASI (computer-assisted self-interviewing). N=49, the base for two questions n=43 respondents.*

<b>Indicator score</b>	8 (out of 16 points)
<b>Final indicator value</b>	2 (scale 0-5) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Measurement period</b>	October – January 2018; Survey of CSOs: April 23 <sup>rd</sup> – May 28 <sup>th</sup> 2018

<sup>1</sup> 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.