



# ■ WeBER Indicator Summary

AREA: POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION

## SERBIA

- **Author: European Policy Centre - CEP**
- **Date: 21.06.2018**

<b>PAR Area</b>	<b>POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COORDINATION</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>SERBIA</b>
<b>SIGMA Principle</b>	<b>10. The policy-making and legal-drafting process is evidence-based, and impact assessment is consistently used across ministries</b>		

<b>WeBER Indicator</b>	<b>PDC_P10_I1: Use of evidence created by think tanks, independent institutes and other CSOs in policy development</b>
<b>Indicator approach</b>	
<p><i>This indicator focuses on the extent to which government institutions invite CSOs to prepare evidence-based policy documents and the extent to which evidence produced by them (the data collected and research) is consulted and used in policy development process. Measurement of elements of this indicator combines expert analysis of relevant government documents and an online survey of CSOs.</i></p> <p><i>The indicator covers a wide range of CSOs working at policy level, such as think tanks, independent institutes, as well as locally-based organisations which declare themselves as working on the policy level.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, to complement survey results with narrative, qualitative inputs, focus groups with CSOs with relevant expertise are conducted based on same questions, on a sample of 3 policy areas in each country where a substantial number of CSOs actively work and perform research and analyses. However, only survey results are used for point allocation for those elements.</i></p>	
<b>Summary of the findings</b>	
<p><i>Evidence-based findings produced by CSOs are often referenced in the sample of adopted government policy documents, as slightly over 54% (6 out of 11) of examined documents contain reference to CSO findings. Regarding policy papers and ex-ante impact assessments of relevant legislation, referencing of evidence-based findings produced by CSOs is found in 7 out of 77 examined documents, which makes 9%. Within all three policy areas, ex-post analyses are either not publicly available or not being produced, as only one document was received through the Freedom of Information Requests, while basic web page search of relevant ministries did not determine that these documents are published on their websites.</i></p> <p><i>More than a third (35.5%) of surveyed CSOs in Serbia confirm that the government institutions invite them to prepare or submit policy papers, studies or impact assessments, when addressing policy problems or developing policy proposals. On the other hand, almost a half (49%) reports that representatives of relevant government institutions, despite being invited, rarely or never participate in the events organized by these CSOs to promote civil society policy products. Additionally, only 22% of CSOs are either often or always being invited by the relevant ministries to participate in working groups/task forces for drafting policy or legislative proposals, while even less percent (13.1%) receives regular feedback on the reasons for acceptance or rejection of their evidence-based contributions to the working groups. Finally, a majority of CSOs (56%) think that relevant ministries rarely or never consider their policy proposals.</i></p>	
<b>Specific observations</b>	
<p><i>Three policy areas in which the largest number of CSOs has been identified in Serbia: antidiscrimination policy, environmental policy and culture and media policy. The assessment of distribution/number of CSOs working in these policy areas was done combining the following sources: TACSO Serbia Needs Assessment Report, SECO membership, OCDoskop, Ecological Movement Odzaci database.</i></p> <p><i>FOIs were sent to 13 responsible bodies in March-April 2018: Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self Government, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Engineering, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs, Ministry of Mining and Energy, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Forest Administration and Commissioner for Equality Protection. In several cases, official replies to FOI requests lacked the requested information or did not provide sufficient information, which impacted the scoring.</i></p> <p><i>Survey of CSOs was administered through anonymous, online questionnaire. The data collection method included CASI (computer-assisted self-interviewing). For Serbia, a total of 183 CSOs were surveyed. The base for questions in this indicator was n=107. Only CSOs that confirmed that they produce proposals, recommendations</i></p>	

*or other inputs for the decision-making processes at the central/national level were responded to the questions related to this indicator.*

<b>Indicator score</b>	7 (out of 24 points)
<b>Final indicator value</b>	1 (scale 0-5) <sup>1</sup>
<b>Measurement period</b>	April - June 2018 Survey of CSOs: April 23 <sup>rd</sup> – June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2018

<sup>1</sup> Conversion of points: 0-5 points = 0; 6-8 points = 1; 9-12 points = 2; 13-16 points = 3; 17-19 points = 4; 20-24 points = 5.