



# ■ 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>11. Policies and legislation are designed in an inclusive manner that enables the active participation of society</b>		

<b>WeBER Indicator</b>	<b>PDC_P11_I1: Civil society perception of inclusiveness and openness of policymaking</b>
<b>Indicator approach</b>	
<p>The indicator measures the extent and the quality of involvement/contribution of the public to the policy making process through public consultations. Measurement of all elements of this indicator is based on a widely disseminated online survey of CSOs to collect their perception by answering questions for each element. The survey is performed on a sample, which aims to ensure a representation of CSOs working in as many research areas as possible, so the sample is as representative as possible. Focus groups are used to inform the narrative report with qualitative findings, but not for the calculation of indicator values. They are conducted on a sample of 3 policy areas in each country where a substantial number of CSOs/think tanks actively work and perform research and analyses, ensuring that policy areas where institutes and think tanks are active are selected.</p>	
<b>Summary of the findings</b>	
<p>In the opinion of CSOs, formal consultation procedures in Montenegro do not provide conditions for an effective involvement of the public policy-making processes. When asked about it, only one quarter (25,6%) of CSOs had a positive stance towards effectiveness of these procedures, which is the lowest score in the whole region (regional average being 35,2% for agree and strongly agree answers).</p> <p>The lowest regional score for positive answers was repeated when CSOs were asked whether authorities apply these consultation procedures consistently when developing policies within their purview. Only 11,6% of CSOs agreed that they do, again being the lowest percentage in the region.</p> <p>Montenegrin CSOs are also the most critical in the region when it comes the timeliness of providing information about the content of legislative or policy proposals within public consultation processes, with only 12% agreeing it is done in a satisfactory manner (regional average for a positive answer to this question was 18%). Answers are similar when it comes to providing information on the content of legislative or policy proposals within public consultation processes, with only about a fifth of CSOs stating this is done adequately by the authorities.</p> <p>Few CSOs, only 7% of those surveyed, stated that relevant ministries ensure that diverse interest groups are represented in the public consultation processes (eg. women, minorities, trade unions, employers' associations etc), by any kind of proactive approach towards such stakeholders.</p> <p>Very few CSOs (4,6%) in Montenegro report that their inputs are accepted by the relevant ministries during the public consultation process, again - the fewest in the region. Regarding receiving feedback on rejection or adoption of submitted inputs within the public consultation process, 11.6% of surveyed CSOs stated that they receive it often (9.3%) or always (2.33%). The percentage of CSOs who state that they receive feedback rarely or never is again the highest in the region (67,5%, up from the regional average of 59,3%).</p> <p>Results of the survey showed an equally critical attitude towards a more advanced form of consultation, those held outside of the formal scope of public consultations. Less than 5% of CSOs stated they were taking place. Although the results for this question were similar for the whole region, they are again the worst in Montenegro, with the highest percentage of CSOs doubting the existence of such consultations.</p> <p>When it comes to the frequency of conducting "early consultations", process in which the authorities consult the public before the actual draft versions of laws or strategies are produced, less than 5% of CSOs in Montenegro stated they were taking place. An overwhelming majority of 75% state they are happening rarely or never, which is the absolute peak in the region.</p>	
<b>Specific observations</b>	

*Survey of CSOs was administered through anonymous, online questionnaire. The data collection method included CASI (computer-assisted self-interviewing). For Montenegro, a total of N=49 CSOs were surveyed. The base for questions in this indicator was n=43 respondents.*

<b>Indicator score</b>	<i>0 (out of 30 points)</i>
<b>Final indicator value</b>	<i>0 (scale 0-5)<sup>1</sup></i>
<b>Measurement period</b>	<i>Survey of CSOs: April 23<sup>rd</sup> – May 28<sup>th</sup> 2018</i>

<sup>1</sup> Conversion of points: 0-6 points = 0; 7-10 points = 1; 11-15 points = 2; 16-20 points = 3; 21-24 points = 4; 25-30 points = 5.