WeBER Indicator Summary

AREA: Strategic Framework of Public Administration Reform

SERBIA

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PAR Area: STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF PAR

Country: SERBIA

SIGMA Principle:
2. Public administration reform is purposefully implemented; reform outcome targets are set and regularly monitored
4. Public administration reform has robust and functioning management coordination structures at both the political and administrative levels to steer the reform design and implementation process

WeBER Indicator: SFPAR_P2&4_I1: Civil society involvement in the PAR monitoring and coordination structures

Indicator approach:
The focus of measurement for this indicator is on quality of PAR implementation, coordination and monitoring form the perspective of civil society engagement. Strategic PAR document whose coordination and monitoring structures are monitored and measured by this indicator, is overall PAR strategic document. Focus on the single strategic document, instead of two or more determines at the same time whether efforts to simplify monitoring and coordination structures for different PAR strategic documents exist. In case there is no overall PAR strategy, the most comprehensive strategic document in force and under implementation is considered.
For each element under this indicator, review and qualitative assessment of official documents pertaining to the organisation and functioning of PAR coordination and monitoring structures is conducted. Findings from other data sources, where applicable, are used to corroborate the findings from the official documents.

Summary of the findings:
PAR monitoring and coordination in Serbia consists of political and administrative structures, political level being the PAR Council, and the Collegium of State Secretaries, and administrative the Inter-Ministerial Project Group (IPG), and the PAR monitoring unit within the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government. Whereas political level does not envisage involvement of CSOs, civil society is represented at the administrative level through the work of the IPG. IPG Rules of Procedure stipulates full membership rights of CSOs, the same as for the other IPG members, representatives of public administration bodies.

The selection procedure to participate in the IPG was not based on open, competitive process at that time, but the members of the Sectorial Civil Society Organisations for PAR (SECO PAR), were invited to join this group (leading consortium of five CSOs members of the SECO PAR, who participate in the planning, programming, and monitoring of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance and other international development assistance to Serbia in PAR). Since the establishment of the IPG in 2015 the group has met five times, however not regularly i.e. at least once in every six months. At first, regularity of meetings was observed in the period between June 2015 and April 2016, yet there was a one-year gap until May 2017, when the last meeting to date took place. The infrequency in scheduling the IPG meetings is reported by the member CSOs. In addition, although information from the official meeting reports shows little evidence of contribution and feedback from CSOs, participating organisations confirm that the format of the IPG allows for discussion and meaningful contribution from the CSO side. Lastly, there was no unambiguous evidence on consulting CSOs on the measures of PAR financing (both external and internal) within the IPG.

Specific observations:
During the monitoring period, the Collegium (Board) of State Secretaries was removed from the political level of the PAR monitoring and coordination structure.

Indicator score: 8 (out of 26 points)
Final indicator value: 1 (scale 0-5)
Measurement period: June, 2018

1 Conversion of points: 0-5 points = 0; 6-9 points = 1; 10-13 points = 2; 14-17 points = 3; 18-21 points = 4; 22-26 points = 5.