



■ WeBER Indicator Summary

AREA: ACCOUNTABILITY

MONTENEGRO

- **Author:** Institute Alternative (IA)
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PAR Area	ACCOUNTABILITY	Country	MONTENEGRO
SIGMA Principle	2. The right to access public information is enacted in legislation and consistently applied in practice		

WeBER Indicator	ACC_P2_I2: Proactive informing of the public by public authorities
Indicator approach	
<p><i>This indicator focuses on the proactivity of public authorities in informing the public, particularly through comprehensiveness, timeliness and clarity of information disseminated through official websites. Indicator consists of 18 elements (sub-indicators), assessing relevant information against two groups of criteria: 1) completeness and up-to-date, 2) accessibility and citizen-friendliness. The element related to open data in public administration, as a proactive way of informing the public, is assessed using separate criteria. Analysis was done on the sample of seven central administration institutions, consisting of three line ministries, one ministry with general planning and coordination function, one government office/agency with CoG function, one subordinate body/agency and one government office/agency in charge of delivering services.</i></p>	
Summary of the findings	
<p><i>Information about the scope of work of institutions is largely missing from their websites, as is the information on lines of accountability of the institutions. As a part of the standard template of the websites of institutions, most of the sample institutions have sections containing relevant policy documents and legal acts, although not all of them are up to date. On the other hand, publishing of analytical materials is considerably lower.</i></p> <p><i>Annual reporting is largely regular and easily accessible. Additionally, annual reports of some Ministries show clear signs of effort to make them more understandable and readable for the non-expert audience. With two exceptions, budgetary information is not published on the websites.</i></p> <p><i>Most complete results have been registered regarding the presentation of contact details for each of the sample institutions, as well as the information on contact points for cooperation with civil society and other external stakeholders. Organigrams presenting the structure of the institutions are available, but not always updated to the latest version of the institution's rulebook on organisation and systematisation.</i></p> <p><i>Regarding open data, the new open data portal is starting to be used by the institutions, though the rate of dataset publishing is still very low.</i></p> <p><i>In measuring the degree of efforts of authorities to present their data and documents in a citizen-friendly way, little or no initiative has been registered. The sampled institutions do not strive to provide documents in a manner that would be more clear or understandable to ordinary citizens, in either the way the documents are presented on their websites, or the way the documents themselves are written. One prominent exception to this practice is the Ministry of Public Administration and their effort to present the budget of the Ministry in the form of an infographic.</i></p> <p><i>In general, most of the key documentation required for measuring this indicator has met the conditions of accessibility, being less than three clicks away from the homepage of the institution. This is due to the template structure of the governmental websites and a multitude of options in the main navigation as well as additional banners on the homepage.</i></p>	
Specific observations	
<p><i>During the measurement period, the websites on the gov.me domain were almost completely unresponsive, either not loading or showing a HTTP 403 status code for forbidden access. No points have been deducted on the basis of this, but it has to be noted that persistent inaccessibility of the gov.me domain is severely hampering the access to websites and assessment of all the criteria required under this indicator and represents an overall obstacle for access to information.</i></p>	

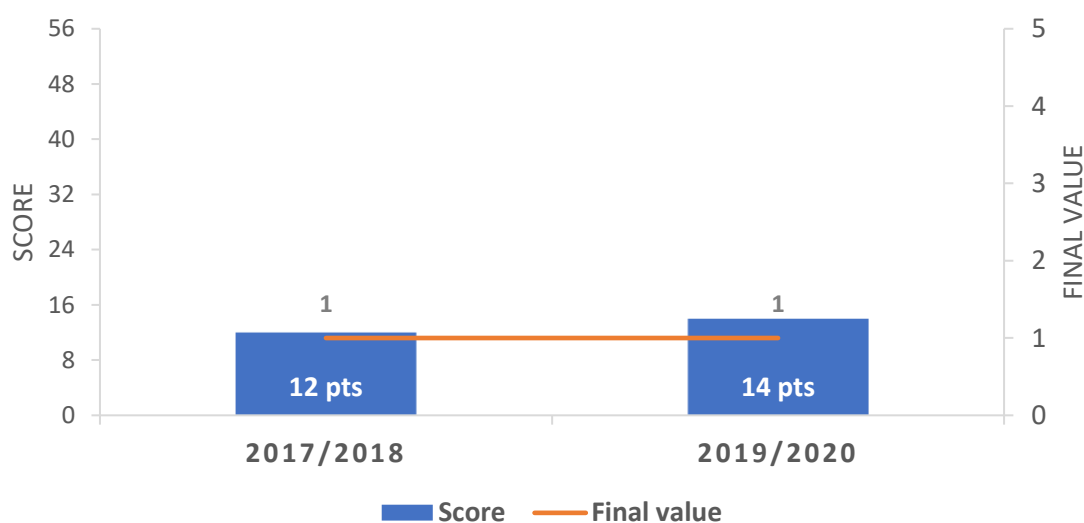
Indicator score	14 (out of 56 points)
Final indicator value	1 (scale 0 – 5) ¹

¹ Conversion of points: 0-10 points = 0; 11-19 points = 1; 20-28 points = 2; 29-37 points = 3; 38-46 points = 4; 47-56 points = 5

Measurement period	27 February - 05 March 2020
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PAR Monitor	2019/2020	2017/2018
Indicator score	14 (out of 56 points)	12 (out of 56 points)
Final indicator value	1 (scale 0 – 5) ²	1 (scale 0 – 5)
Measurement period	27 February - 05 March 2020	17 December 2017
Comment	Compared to the baseline PAR Monitor 2017/2018, new measurement has somewhat increased in indicator score, but not enough for an increase in final indicator value. The scores are the same in both cycles for 15 out of total 18 individual elements. In the new cycle, institutions were found to be less complete and up to date with scope of work, but better at presenting the information about their organisational structure. It is important to note that, although the open data portal has started functioning since the last measurement, the score for open data element remains the same (zero). On the other hand, good practice of citizen-friendly budget presentation is registered in this cycle, though too sporadic to change the score for that element.	

PROACTIVE INFORMING OF THE PUBLIC BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES



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