Civil Society Led PAR Monitoring in the Western Balkans – WeBER Project

*Breakout Session E - Drivers and Enablers of Policy Effectiveness*

Presented by

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The Story

PAR in the context of EU integration process

- Since 2014, new focus on the PAR as one of the three pillars of the reforms on road to EU
- Principles of Public Administration (SIGMA) - new framework for monitoring and evaluating progress of PAR in candidate countries
Only by empowering local non-governmental actors and strengthening participatory democracy at all levels, can the same pressure on the governments to continue implementing the often painful and inconvenient administrative reforms be maintained post-accession.

Increase the relevance, participation and capacity of civil society organisations and media in the Western Balkans to advocate for and influence the design and implementation of public administration reform.
Purpose of PAR Monitoring

• To help guide the governments in the region towards successful EU accession and membership
  • Monitoring approach has been devised around the PAR requirements defined under the EU’s enlargement policy
  • Principles of PA as the main building block of the PAR Monitor Methodology

• Pre-accession:
  • CSOs to provide complementary findings and indicators
  • Complement each other and using EU conditionality also as support
  • Increasing capacities and skills -> widening the scope of monitoring

• Post-accession:
  • Continue with the external monitoring in a more holistic way once SIGMA is no longer there to perform its external assessments
  • Maintenance of pressure and momentum of the reforms
IMPLEMENTED ACTIONS

Monitoring approach

- Quantified monitoring, based in research and evidence
- Compound indicators
- Ensured complementarity with monitoring by SIGMA through:
  - Monitoring based in local knowledge
  - Complementary research approaches

- Public perception survey, 15 October - 30 November 2017
- Survey of civil servants, between March and April 2018
- Survey of civil society organisations, between April and June 2018
- Desk analysis and Freedom of Information requests
- Semi-structured interviews and Focus Groups
Policy Development and Coordination

Public availability of information on Government performance

Transparency of the Government’s decision-making

SELECTED RESULTS

BUILDING EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA REGIONAL GOVERNANCE CONFERENCE
Performance of tasks characteristic for civil service outside of the civil service merit-based regime

Openness, transparency and fairness of recruitment into the civil service
Selected Results

Accountability

Civil society perception of the quality of legislation and practice of access to public information

Proactive informing of the public by public authorities

[Graphs showing data for Albania, BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Serbia]
Public perception of state administration’s citizen orientation

Public perception and availability of information on citizens’ feedback regarding the quality of administrative services

SELECTED RESULTS

Service Delivery
Public Finance Management

Transparency and accessibility of budgetary documents

Supreme Audit Institution’s communication and cooperation with the public pertaining to its work

SELECTED RESULTS
LESSONS LEARNED

• EU accession process frontrunners not necessarily frontrunners in individual PAR reforms, esp. in openness, transparency, citizen-friendliness
• Importance of spotting and promoting individual reform champions, which can be found in each country
• Data collection challenges, esp. for civil service and civil society surveys (lack of population registries); failures of public authorities to respond to FOI requests
• Some indicators require revisions – decrease reliance on perceptions, increase reliance on hard data (also difficult to obtain!)
THANK YOU!

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Questions?
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