

Civil Society's Role in Guarding the Public Interest and Enhancing the Public Administration Reform

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Roundtable Discussion: The New Enlargement Strategy for the Western Balkans:
How to Enhance Civil Society Role in Anti-Corruption and Good Governance

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What is public administration reform?

- Misperception of the term
- The role of CSOs starts in demystifying the PAR
- European Principles of Public Administration helped in mapping the key burning issues
- SEE 2020 Strategy

The PAR stories

- Technocratic process, alienated from citizens;
- Or: use and abuse of public resources, more effective public services, merit-based recruitment, integrity
- WeBER project, “Civil Society for Good Governance: To Act and Account!”
- Working groups, PAR Network “Our Administration”
- Approaching PAR from various perspectives: gender-mainstreaming, service delivery to vulnerable groups

My Administration Website



Lessons learned

- Team up with people/organizations who have the skills you are lacking
- Designers, local CSOs, media
- Be flexible, the timing is hardly predictable
- **Fill the data gaps** and avoid overlaps (Government official reports, SIGMA assessments, European Commission country reports, Balkan Barometer)
- Innovate: ‘Mystery shopping’ in Montenegrin municipalities

Lessons learned

- Use the opportunities: Special Group for Public Administration Reform, consultations with CSOs
- Transparency of EU accession is over-arching issue: peer review reports, expert missions, direct budget support for PAR

Challenges or opportunities

- Mainstreaming of PAR
- One of the three pillars of EU accession negotiations
- Catching up with benchmarks and setting new ones
- Independent monitoring