

KEY FINDINGS FROM THE SHADOW REPORT ON SECTOR WORKING GROUP ON TRANSPORT

RELEVANT SECTOR POLICIES

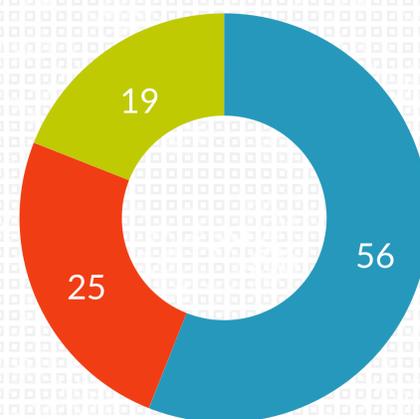
In 2020, there were no strategy documents or legislation adopted in the transport sector. The Ministry of Transport and Communications announced that development of strategies on intelligent transport systems and on traffic safety are in initial stage of preparations. In respect to traffic safety, the main goal is to create basis for formation of separate executive authority tasked with improving road safety in order to reduce accidents and number of victims and injured. It is believed that such a body would ensure a systemic approach to traffic safety and would cover all aspects currently treated by several institutions: Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Interior, Public Enterprise for State Road and Republic Council for Road Traffic Safety.



According to the National Transport Strategy 2018-2030, which is the key strategy document in the transport sector, attainment of first short-term objectives is anticipated as late as 2021. Hence, there could be no discussion about achievements made in 2020, although this sector has several ongoing projects financed by different donors and creditors (EU, WB, EBRD, Exim Bank). These projects mainly concern construction or modernization of road infrastructure, as well as development of project design documents.

SWG TRANSPORT

- ◆ **FORMED:** 2015
- ◆ **NUMBER OF SWG MEMBERS:** 36 under the decision from 02.07.2020 (of which 16 are deputy members)
- ◆ **NUMBER OF MEETINGS HELD IN 2020:** one meeting, 03.07.2020
- ◆ **SWG CHAIR:** State Advisor on Transport Policy at the Ministry of Transport and Communications



- Members from institutions (56%)
- Observers from the donor community (25%)
- Observers from CSOs (19%)

SWG FUNCTIONALITY

- ◆ SWG has own **rules of procedure**, but as **draft text** and not formally adjusted to the chair's needs and guidelines, because MTC has not received feedback from SEA on proposals made to amend the rules of procedure.
- ◆ SWG **membership includes 14 institutions**, and its composition was changed under the 2020 decision reducing the number of members and deputy members from 39 to 36.
- ◆ **Access to minutes from SWG meetings is restricted** for those who are no members under the justification of containing confidential information.
- ◆ SWG **does not create annual work plans** and does not develop annual work reports.

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

- ◆ In practice, CSOs are **neither members nor observers in SWG**.
- ◆ SWG membership **does not include non-state actors**, for example the academic community, chambers of commerce, trade unions, etc.
- ◆ MTC representatives report they have **identified CSOs** that have expressed interest in monitoring SWG work and are invited to SWG meetings depending on topics discussed.
- ◆ **Identified CSOs indicate they have not been invited** to the only meeting organized in 2020, and were not consulted on any issues in the transport sector.

CSO CAPACITY

- ◆ Given their exclusion from SWG work, **CSO capacity** for contribution to creation of better policies and influencing selection of projects in the transport area **cannot be assessed**.
- ◆ CSOs that have expressed interest in joining SWG work assess **they have capacity** and can contribute in this area.

EFFECTS FROM SWG WORK

- ◆ Although SWG should meet at least once every three months, only **one meeting** is organized in 2020.
- ◆ MTC representatives reiterate that **the biggest burden for SWG work falls on members from this ministry**, assessing engagement and contribution from other state institutions as insufficient and minimal.
- ◆ SWG **is more an operational body** for coordination and monitoring dynamics of ongoing projects and planning next projects, **instead of analysing sector policies and strategies**.

WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE:

- ◆ Review the possibility for **organization of SWG plenary and operational meetings**, whereby plenary sessions would focus on discussion of strategy documents and policies and their attainment with all SWG members and with civil society representatives, while operational meetings would focus on discussing projects underway or in the stage of implementation planning with representatives from stakeholder institutions.
- ◆ Urgently **involve civil society representatives in SWG work** through open and inclusive selection process.
- ◆ **Inform the public and other stakeholders on** SWG work, meetings, minutes from SWG meetings and decisions taken.