

# ARTICULATION OF TEXTS IN ERP DOCUMENT: A QUICK OVERVIEW

**Mojmir Mrak**  
**CEF EAG**



Ljubljana, February 2020

# An introductory remark

- Presentation based on two sets of my personal experience
  - *First*; coordination / drafting of ERP-type document in Slovenia before and immediately after the EU accession
  - *Second*; assistance to several countries in the region in drafting their ERP-type documents over the last decade



# Structure of the presentation

- Stylized characteristics about coordination and drafting of an ERP-type document
- Improvements of ERP documents and of their preparation process over time
- Remaining weaknesses of ERP texts (SR chapter) with respect to the substance
- Remaining drafting weaknesses of ERP texts (chapter on SR)



# Stylized features of coordination and drafting of an ERP-type document

- Coordination reflects historical, legal and institutional characteristics as well as political reality of the country
- Drafting of the document reflects the above coordination features as well as professional capacity of the staff
- Both, coordination and drafting experiences across countries in the region differ significantly ....
- ....so generalizations or stylized features may be of limited validity



# Stylized features of coordination and drafting of an ERP-type document

- Stylized features of coordination
  - Overall coordination of the document done either by ministry of finance or prime minister's office .....
  - ..... while coordination of chapter 5 (on SR) preparation is under responsibility of very different institutions
  - Coordination-types can generally be classified into „formal“ and „substantive“ (with clear instructions and interventions into the draft document)



# Stylized features of coordination and drafting of an ERP-type document

- Stylized features of drafting
  - Drafts of macro and fiscal chapters written very „centrally“ and by one institution – ministry of finance (one style of writing)
  - Drafts of introductory chapters written again very centrally – ERP coordinator
  - Draft of SR chapter written on the basis of inputs provided by a large number of institutions (done in different writing styles)
  - Drafts typically written in local language and then translated into English



# Improvements of ERP documents and of their preparation process over time

- The overall quality of ERP documents improved significantly over last decade
- The texts are done increasingly in line with the Commission's annual guidance
  - The substance of the documents follows the annotated agenda set by the Commission
  - The length of the documents is increasingly in line with the Commission's instructions
- Preparation of ERPs is more and more integrated into national budget cycles



# Remaining weaknesses of ERP texts with respect to the substance (SR chapter)

- Submitted draft texts are often too long
- Texts are often extensive on past developments, but rather short on policy objectives / measures to be implemented
- Parts of the texts discussing the future are often very legally oriented – what legal acts are to be adopted
- Text often have poor economic analysis and inadequate articulation of policy measures



# Remaining weaknesses of ERP texts with respect to the substance (SR chapter)

- Texts have poor or no fiscal content of policy measures (no quantification)
- Texts have poor or no link at all with strategic documents of the country
- Texts are not fully internally consistent
  - Substantive problems not resolved
  - Coordinator is not sufficiently strong
  - Length of the text's section not in correlation with the subject's importance

# Remaining drafting weaknesses of ERP texts (SR chapter)

- **Structure of texts**
  - Texts are sometimes over-structured (to many paras)
  - Texts sometimes have no structure at all
- **Style of text writing**
  - Various parts of the chapter are written in very different writing styles
  - Texts are often overburdened with information that are simply not necessary



# Remaining drafting weaknesses of ERP texts (SR chapter)

- **Style of writing (cont.)**
  - Texts sometimes have no clear „story“
  - Texts are often written in long sentences
  - Some times more headings / sub-headings would be useful
- Translation of the texts in English is sometimes not really good; texts are difficult to be understood