

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM COUNCIL

Held on 26 March 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in the Conference Hall of the Statistical Office of Montenegro

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PRESENT:

Miroslav Pejović
Ernad Kolić, MSc
Branka Šušić Radovanović, MSc
Prof. Nevena Mijajlović, PhD
Ana Ljumović
Mira Radunović, MSc
Marko Todorović
Boris Mugoša
Marina Jovanović
Mirjana Nedović Vuković, PhD

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ABSENT:

Prof. Božidar Popović, PhD
Jelena Đukić
Robert Rajković
John M. Barac
Miloš Mišković
Željka Vulcanović
Biljana Vučetić

AGENDA

1. Consideration of the submitted initiative for the publication of the minimum consumer basket calculation;
2. Any other business.

Following the establishment of a quorum, the members of the Statistical System Council unanimously adopted the Minutes of the regular meeting held on 25 February 2026, the Minutes of the written session held from 4 to 5 March 2026, as well as the proposed agenda.

Under the first agenda item, the Director of the Statistical Office of Montenegro, Miroslav Pejović, introduced the Council members to the initiative of the Ministry of Economic Development, submitted pursuant to the Conclusions of the Government of Montenegro, concerning the publication of the minimum consumer basket calculation.

During the discussion, the representative of the Central Bank of Montenegro, Mira Radunović MSc, pointed out that the institution supports initiatives contributing to the improvement of economic analysis and a better understanding of the population's standard of living. In this context, the development of a minimum consumer basket indicator may serve as a useful analytical tool; however, in line with the practice of the European Statistical System, it is not considered part of official statistics. It was emphasized that its further development should be based on a transparent and methodologically sound approach while preserving the professional independence and credibility of official statistics.

Following a brief discussion, the Statistical System Council assessed the initiative positively but concluded that, in accordance with the applicable national legislation and the *acquis* of the European Union (EU *acquis*), the Statistical Office of Montenegro has neither a legal basis nor an obligation to carry out this survey. It was further pointed out that there is no internationally recognised and harmonised methodology and that statistical institutes in the region and in the European Union do not conduct this survey as part of the official statistical system.

In view of the above, the Statistical System Council considered that the Statistical Office of Montenegro is not the competent institution for carrying out and publishing the minimum consumer basket calculation. Instead, it concluded that, subject to the establishment of an appropriate methodological framework, this responsibility could fall within the competence of the Ministry of Economic Development, as is the practice in certain neighbouring countries.

The Council also supported the proposal to hold a meeting for further consideration of the initiative and designated representatives to participate in that meeting.

Under Any Other Business, the Director of the Statistical Office of Montenegro, Miroslav Pejović, pointed out that all requested documentation, including the completed questionnaires for the Statistical Office of Montenegro and the other producers of official statistics, had been submitted to Eurostat within the prescribed deadline and that preparations for the Peer Review mission were progressing according to schedule.

Chair of the Statistical System Council

Prof. Nevena Mijajlović, PhD

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