

5.18. Chapter 18: Statistics

EU rules require that Member States are able to produce statistics based on professional independence, impartiality, reliability, transparency, and confidentiality. Common rules are provided for the methodology, production and dissemination of statistical information.

Montenegro is **moderately prepared** in the area of statistics. **Some progress** was made on harmonising the statistical methodology with EU standards and the increased transmission of data, notably macroeconomic, social, business and agricultural statistics. However, significant efforts are still needed in the statistical system to address the 2016 recommendations.

In the coming year; Montenegro should in particular:

→ considerably strengthen the human and financial resources of the Statistical Office of Montenegro (Monstat) and also strengthen the human resources of the Ministry of Finance in order to fulfil its responsibilities regarding government finance statistics;

→ further align its statistics with ESA 2010, including government finance statistics;

On **statistical infrastructure**, the legal framework is in line with the European statistics Code of Practice. The Statistical Office of Montenegro (Monstat) is the main producer and overall coordinator of statistics. Its professional independence is enshrined in law. The government of Montenegro issued a "Commitment on Confidence" in February 2018, guaranteeing Monstat's professional independence and demonstrating its trust in the National Statistical System of Montenegro. However, Monstat's financial and administrative capacities are still limited due to inadequate resources: only 107 of 200 available posts are filled. Monstat's office premises also remain inadequate, both in terms of space and of the image they provide.

Monstat has signed 19 memoranda of understanding with administrative data providers. Coordination of producers of official statistics also continued to improve, but needs further strengthening. The main classifications (NACE Rev. 2, ISCO-08, NUTS, CPA, GEONOM and ISCED 2011) are in compliance with the EU *acquis*.

Data transmission to **Eurostat** increased. However, although progress was achieved in the area of **macro-economic statistics**, continued efforts will be needed to align them with ESA 2010. Monstat compiles annual and quarterly gross domestic product (GDP) using the output and expenditure approach in current and previous year prices. Revised time series for GDP for 2006-2009 according to ESA 2010 were transmitted to Eurostat. Monstat does not yet compile annual or quarterly sector accounts.

Considerable efforts are needed to develop government finance statistics and financial accounts. The Central Bank compiles statistics on the balance of payments and foreign direct investment, which are partially aligned with the EU *acquis*. The harmonised index of consumer prices (HICP) and purchasing power parities (PPP) are mostly aligned. The excessive deficit procedure (EDP) tables have been regularly sent to Eurostat since October 2014, on best effort basis with important tables missing.

In **business statistics** Monstat started transmitting structural business statistics (SBS) data to Eurostat in July 2017. Short-term statistics (STS) improved over the reporting period. The Business Register is largely aligned with the EU PRODCOM list of EU products, but no foreign affiliates' statistics (FATS) have been received by Eurostat. Tourism statistics are compliant except for dissemination of the data due to national restrictions to publishing pilot data. Transport statistics are largely aligned. Research and development data are in line with the EU *acquis*.

In **social statistics**, Montenegro has started preparations for applying a register-based census methodology for the 2021 population and housing census making a maximum use of registers kept by other public bodies. The survey of income and living conditions (EU-SILC) continues to be conducted and has been further aligned. Labour market statistics are broadly aligned with the EU *acquis*, work to produce structure of earnings data progressed well but further improvement is needed on the labour cost index. Crime statistics are partially in line with Eurostat's annual data collection requirements. Eurostat receives data on the migrant population, migration and acquisitions of citizenship statistics without metadata and has not yet received data on asylum.

Good progress was achieved in **agricultural statistics**. Complete datasets of annual crop statistics (ACS) and animal production statistics (APS) have been transmitted to Eurostat, as well as the results of the 2016 Farm Structure Survey (FSS). Production accounts for agriculture were established for the period 2012-2016. **Energy statistics** are fully compliant for annual data and partially compliant for monthly data. Energy price statistics are fully compliant. In March 2017, Eurostat was able to publish the first SHARES (Renewable energy sources) data for Montenegro. In **environment statistics**, waste statistics are partially compliant. Statistics on environmental accounts have not yet been received by Eurostat.