



Crna Gora
Uprava za statistiku

PRESS RELEASE
7 November 2025

TWENTY YEARS OF THE EUROPEAN STATISTICS CODE OF PRACTICE

Official Statistics of Montenegro Dedicated to Quality and Trust

The Director of the Statistical Office of Montenegro (MONSTAT), mr. Miroslav Pejovic, participated in a meeting organized by Eurostat in Brussels on November 6–7, marking 20 years of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

As a representative of the enlargement countries, Mr. Pejovic was a panelist in the session titled “Celebrating the Memories”, contributing to the exchange of experiences on the implementation of the Code and its importance for improving the quality of European statistics over the past two decades.

The event gathered representatives of national statistical institutes, international organizations, and experts in official statistics, with the aim of examining the impact of the Code of Practice on strengthening quality, trust, and professional independence within the European Statistical System.

In his address, the Director emphasized that the European Statistics Code of Practice is the foundation of trust, professional independence, and quality in official statistics, and that its consistent application has played a key role in the development and strengthening of the statistical system of Montenegro.

“The Code of Practice is much more than a technical document - it is a set of principles and standards that guarantee that statistics are produced in accordance with the principles of professionalism and independence. Thanks to its application, Montenegro’s official statistics are today recognized as reliable and transparent,” the director stated.

Three development pases in Montenegro through the implementation of the Code of Practice

Speaking about the impact of the Code on Montenegro's statistical system, the director highlighted three key phases of development:

1. Alignment with European Standards - Establishing a legal and institutional framework that ensures the professional independence of the Statistical Office, introducing standardized methodologies and quality management systems, and improving transparency and communication with users.

2. Reform of the Statistical Institution - Adoption of the Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics, which guarantees the professional independence of the Statistical Office, as well as the independence of its Director and the protection of data confidentiality. This phase also included conducting self-assessments and external quality evaluations through Peer Review processes, among which the 2018 review was particularly significant.

3. Strengthening Capacities and Expertise - Continuous investment in the education and professional development of employees, further reinforcing quality standards, public trust, and cooperation with Eurostat.

"These three phases clearly show that the Code of Practice is not merely a technical instrument but a key element of European integration in the field of statistics. It has created a culture of quality, professional independence, and accountability," the Director emphasized.

About the European Statistics Code of Practice

The European Statistics Code of Practice forms the foundation of the common quality framework of the European Statistical System (ESS). It is based on 16 principles that cover the institutional environment, statistical production processes, and outputs. The Code obliges all institutions that develop, produce, and disseminate European statistics — including Eurostat, national statistical institutes, and other relevant bodies — to consistently apply its principles.

More information about the European Statistics Code of Practice is available on the official [Eurostat](#) website.

At the end of his address, director Pejovic announced that the upcoming Peer Review mission, to be conducted in Montenegro in 2026, will represent an important step in further strengthening the quality system and confirm the continuous commitment of MONSTAT and the system of official



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statistics of Montenegro to the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice, and to the final stages of the EU accession process.

“The Code of Practice remains our guide and our guarantee — a guide toward European standards and a guarantee that our statistics are reliable, comparable, and useful for decision-making both nationally and internationally,” concluded the director.