



CRNA GORA
UPRAVA ZA STATISTIKU

MONTENEGRO
STATISTICAL OFFICE

REPORT

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN FOR IMPLEMENTING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

2024–2028 (for 2024)

Podgorica, March 2025

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE REPORT

CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
CAWI	Computer Assisted Web Interviewing
CBCG	Central Bank of Montenegro
EDAMIS	Electronic Data and Monitoring Information System
EU	European Union
EUROSTAT	Statistical Office of the European Union
ESMS	European Statistics Metadata System
ESS	European Statistical System
ESS MH	European Statistics System Metadata Handler
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
IT	Information Technology
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MUP	Ministry of Interior
ND	Normative activity
NVO	Non-governmental organization
NSOR	National Strategy of Sustainable Development
STS	Short Term Statistics
SDMX	Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange
SIMS	Single Integrated Metadata Structure
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
TD	Thematic activity
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Statistical Office, in cooperation with other producers of official statistics, and in accordance with Article 19 of the Regulation on the manner and procedure for preparing, harmonising and monitoring the implementation of strategic documents (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no 54/18), prepared the annual Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028 (for 2024).

At its session of 27 December 2023, the Government of Montenegro adopted [the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028, together with a two-year Action Plan for 2024 and 2025](#)¹. The Strategy was published in the Official Gazette of Montenegro and is available on the website of the Statistical Office.

The Strategy is a five-year development document in the field of official statistics, adopted in accordance with The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System². This document represents the development framework of the statistical system of Montenegro, defining the strategic objective, vision, mission and long-term operational objectives for the development of the statistical system of Montenegro, while the Action Plan ensures the structured implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028.

The Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028, together with the two-year Action Plan for 2024 and 2025, contains five operational objectives, with corresponding indicators and activities leading to the achievement of the strategic objective. It also defines the implementation timeline, reporting structure and responsible authorities for the implementation of the operational objectives.

The challenges in official statistics identified in the chapter Analysis of the Situation in the Field of Official Statistics are addressed through the strategic objective: “To provide all users with results of official statistics produced in accordance with the principles of official statistics, prescribed national and international methodology, and in compliance with ethical and professional standards”, and are further channelled through the operational objectives into priority areas and groups of activities aimed at achieving the desired progress.

The management of activity implementation requires the full commitment of the Statistical Office, together with efficient and effective cooperation with other producers of official statistics. This report was prepared in accordance with the [Methodology for Policy Development, Preparation and Monitoring of the Implementation of Strategic Documents](#)³, which stipulates that the report is to be prepared at the end of each year. It presents an analysis of the operational objectives and activities achieved in 2024 and is based on information received from the competent institutions responsible for the implementation of the activities.

¹ Development Strategy of Official Statistics 2024-2028 (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 101/24 from 22 October 2024)

¹ Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12 and 47/19)

¹ Podgorica: General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro, third revised edition, 2024, ISBN 978-9940-723-03-3

1.1. LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION AND SHARE OF ACTIVITIES NOT COMPLETED ON TIME

The Action Plan for 2024–2025 envisaged the implementation of 38 activities, of which eight were planned for 2024, while the deadline for the completion of the remaining activities is set for 2025.

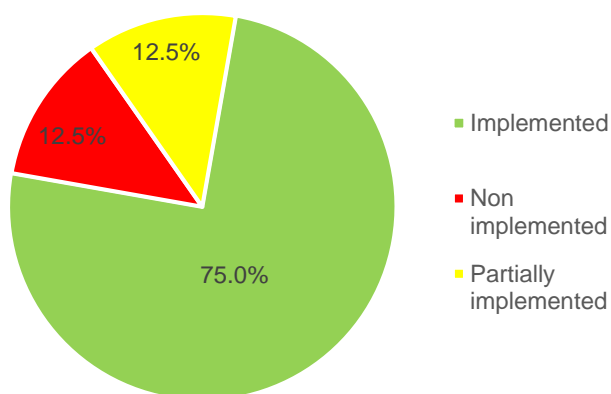
Table 1. Overview of implemented activities defined by the Action Plan of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028, for the period 2024 and 2025

STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS 2024–2028	Number	%
Strategic objective	1	
Operational objectives	5	
Two-year Action Plan for the implementation of activities defined by the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics		
Planned activities with a completion date in 2024		
1) Number of activities planned in 2024:	8	100.0%
1a. Implemented activities	6	75.0%
1b. Partially implemented activities	1	12.5%
1c. Not implemented activities	1	12.5%
Planned activities with a completion date in 2025		
2) Number of activities planned in 2025	30	
2a. Activities implemented in 2024 with a completion date in 2025	2	
TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR 2024 AND 2025	38	

In 2024, eight activities were implemented out of the 38 planned under the two-year Action Plan, of which six had a completion deadline in 2024 and two had a completion deadline in 2025 (*Glossary of Statistical Terms and Analysis of Existing and Potential Administrative Data Sources for the Production of Official Statistics*).

The remainder of this Report presents the level of implementation of activities whose deadline was the end of 2024 and which were defined by the two-year Action Plan of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028.

Chart 1. Level of implementation of activities in 2024



The implementation rate of activities was **75.0%**, as six out of eight planned activities were completed.

The rate of **partially implemented activities** was **12.5%** (one activity).

The rate of **non-implemented activities** was **12.5%** (one activity).

Table 2. Overview of the implementation of planned activities in 2024 by operational objectives

Operational objectives	Total number of activities planned in 2024 and 2025	No of activities planned to start and end in 2024	No of implemented activities planned to start and end in 2024	No of partially implemented activities planned to start and end in 2024	No of non-implemented activities planned to start and end in 2024
Operational Objective 1	13	4	3	-	1
Operational Objective 2	3	-	-	-	-
Operational Objective 3	10	3	3	-	-
Operational Objective 4	3	-	-	-	-
Operational Objective 5	9	1	-	1	-
TOTAL	38	8	6	1	1

Operational objective 1. Further improvement of institutional coordination of official statistics – Four activities were planned under the 2024 Action Plan. Three activities were implemented, while one activity was not implemented.

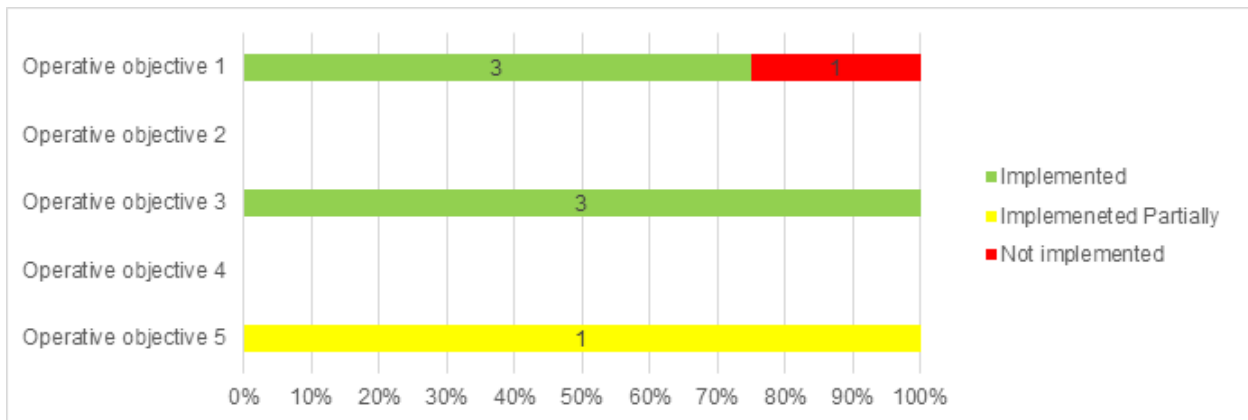
Operative objective 2. Strengthening the system of official statistics through the full implementation of planned human resources and spatial capacities – No activities were planned under the 2024 Action Plan for this operational objective.

Operational objective 3. Continuing alignment with EU standards and recommendations of international institutions and cooperation in the field of official statistics – Three activities were planned under the 2024 Action Plan, all of which were implemented.

Operational objective 4. Digital transformation of statistical production with enhanced IT security – No activities were planned under the 2024 Action Plan for this operational objective.

Operational objective 5. Production of relevant, timely and high-quality official statistics through the use of innovative data sources and technologies – One activity was planned under the 2024 Action Plan and was partially implemented.

Chart 2. Level of Implementation of activities contributing to the operational objectives in the reporting period 2024



1.2. REASONS FOR PARTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OR NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Out of the eight planned activities, two were not fully implemented. One activity contributing to the implementation of Operational Objective 1. was not implemented, while another activity contributing to Operational Objective 5. was partially implemented. The reasons for the failure to implement these activities within the deadline are presented below.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. Further improvement of institutional coordination of official statistics

Activity 1.2.8. The responsibilities of the Classification Units Register are defined in accordance with legal provisions

During the reporting period, the above-mentioned activity was not implemented. The reason lies in the interconnection and interdependence of activities, whereby a delay in one activity causes a chain reaction and prevents the implementation of related activities, which occurred in this case.

The objective of this activity is to define the competence for the registration and record-keeping of entities that do not perform an economic activity. Since 2010, the Statistical Office has been classifying units of classification. At that time, this was envisaged as a transitional solution, until the legal conditions were created to define the competence by law. Considering the legislative changes regulating the operation of entities that do not perform an economic activity, which occurred after 2010, the conditions have now been established for the process of classification, as well as the assignment of identification numbers, to be carried out by the competent authorities responsible for their registration.

In this regard, an interdepartmental working group was established with the task of preparing an *Analysis of the Regulatory Framework for the Classification of Organisations that Do Not Perform an Economic Activity* and a *Plan for Further Reform in the Field of Maintaining Classification Data on Organisations that Do Not Perform an Economic Activity*. For the needs of the working group, the Statistical Office prepared an analysis entitled *Register of Classification Units of Organisations and Communities that Do Not Perform an Economic Activity* and outlined the classification procedure for organisations by activity, which falls within its competence.

The implementation of Activity 1.2.8, Defined competence of the Register of Classification Units in accordance with the legal provisions, is conditional upon the results of the work of the interdepartmental working group and the procedure for adopting the law that will define the competence of the “Register of Classification Units”.

This activity is also included in Chapter IV of this report, *Recommendations for the Next Implementation Period*, as it represents a continuous activity.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. Production of relevant, timely, and high-quality official statistics through the use of innovative data sources and technologies
Activity 5.2.1. Four-year Dissemination and Communication Strategy of the Statistical Office for the period 2025 - 2028

Due to insufficient human resources within the Statistical Office, particularly in the Department for Dissemination and Management of Statistical Databases and Quality, the above-mentioned activity was only partially implemented. In 2024, the document *Concept for the Development of Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2025–2028* was prepared, which will serve as the basis for the preparation of the *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2026–2029*.

The *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2026–2029*, together with the two-year Action Plan for 2026 and 2027, will be prepared during 2025 in accordance with

the Regulation on the manner and procedure for preparing, harmonising and monitoring the implementation of strategic documents. The adoption of the Strategy is planned under the Government of Montenegro Work Programme for 2025. In this regard, a Working Group for the preparation of the Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2026–2029 has been established.

This activity is also included in Chapter IV of this report, *Recommendations for the Next Implementation Period*.

1.3. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028 envisaged a number of activities aimed at increasing the visibility of other producers of official statistics. The key achievements are presented below.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1: Further improvement of institutional coordination of official statistics

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Visibility of other producers of official statistics

- Increased [Availability of the results of official statistics produced by other producers](#) through the publication of links on the official website of the Statistical Office, enabling users to access the official statistics of other producers;
- Establishment of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro, composed of representatives of the Statistical Office and other producers of official statistics;
- The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation acquired the status of producer of official statistics for the field of Research and Development;
- Active participation of other producers of official statistics in the preparation of:
 - the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2025;
 - the Calendar of Publication of Statistical Data for 2025;
 - the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System;
 - Metadata for 2023;
 - the Multiannual Training Programme for the Acquisition of Statistical Knowledge and Skills.
- Participation of other producers of official statistics in the implementation of the IPA 2022 project “Quality Management”;
- Data were collected on the compliance of other producers of official statistics with the statistical legislative framework and the principles of official statistics, using the Questionnaire for Institutional Self-assessment of Compliance with the Statistical Legislative Framework and the Principles of Official Statistics.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1: Further improvement of institutional coordination of official statistics

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Visibility of other producers of official statistics

- In cooperation with other producers of official statistics, the Statistical Office prepared the [Glossary of Statistical Terms](#), which was published on the website of the Statistical Office;
- The Statistical Business Register was updated in line with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 with new variables, resulting in a higher degree of compliance with European standards.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1: Further improvement of institutional coordination of official statistics

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Visibility of other producers of official statistics

- In cooperation with other producers, the Statistical Office prepared the *Analysis of Existing and Potential Administrative Data Sources for the Production of Official Statistics*, thereby mapping administrative data sources within the system of official statistics with a view to integrating data from different sources;
- CAWI and CAPI data collection methods were introduced in two statistical surveys, increasing the number of surveys using these methods from 12 to 14.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. Continuation of alignment with EU standards and recommendations of international institutions and cooperation in the field of official statistics

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis

- Continuous alignment of all surveys within the statistical system of Montenegro with the EU acquis;
- Updated *Information on the level of fulfilment of the EU acquis in Chapter 18. Statistics*;
- The Statistical Office, as coordinator of the statistical system, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the Central Bank of Montenegro, for the first time transmitted to EUROSTAT the available preliminary Government Finance Statistics (GFS) data for the period 2013–2016;
- The first official visit of the Director-General of EUROSTAT to Montenegro took place in November 2024, with the aim of supporting further work on closing Chapter 18 – Statistics;
- Activities were carried out to implement the recommendations defined by the *Peer Review* mission.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. Continuation of alignment with EU standards and recommendations of international institutions and cooperation in the field of official statistics

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Fulfillment of the closing benchmarks of Negotiation Chapter 18. Statistics

- A certain degree of progress and a moderate level of preparedness for EU membership were achieved. In this regard, the 2024 *European Commission Report on Montenegro* (Progress Report) records a better assessment than in the previous year;
- A *Roadmap was defined for fulfilling the remaining obligations of the negotiation process in Chapter 18. Statistics*, with particular reference to the closing benchmarks.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. Continuation of alignment with EU standards and recommendations of international institutions and cooperation in the field of official statistics

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Availability of Montenegro's official statistics results in EUROSTAT and UN databases

- The Statistical Office regularly transmits results of official statistics from 56 domains, i.e. statistical areas, to EUROSTAT;
- Out of a total of 200 statistical surveys planned under the [Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024](#), 194 were implemented, three were not implemented and three were partially implemented;
- Activities were initiated to update the indicators under the competence of the Statistical Office on the SDG indicators platform;
- Training sessions and workshops were held on the integration of Sustainable Development Goal indicators (SDG indicators) into strategic documents, organised by the Office for Sustainable Development and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, with the participation of representatives of the Statistical Office;
- Representatives of the Statistical Office participated in the preparation of the draft *Action Plan of Montenegro's Statement of Commitment to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*;
- International workshops and expert meetings were held with the participation of representatives of the Statistical Office.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5: Production of relevant, timely, and high-quality official statistics through the use of innovative data sources and technologies

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR: Promotion of official statistics results

- The Concept for the Development of Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2025–2028 was prepared as a basis for drafting the Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2026–2029;
- 107 items containing results of official statistics were published on three social media platforms (Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram);
- 180 statistical releases were published (on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis), as well as four publications (online and printed), in accordance with the [Statistical Release Calendar for 2024](#);
- Based on user request records, responses were provided to a total of 834 requests, of which 150 related to media requests and 684 to requests from other users;
- In accordance with the publication plan for the results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census, 10 final releases (population) with Excel databases were published in the domain [Population Census 2023](#);
- Activities were carried out for the preparation and implementation of the public campaign for the Agricultural Census 2024.

1.4. CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES AND TARGET VALUES OF PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The reasons for the non-implementation of a very small number of activities lie in their interconnection and mutual dependence, as a delay in one activity creates a chain reaction and prevents the implementation of related activities, as well as in the lack of human resources.

It is important to note that the beginning of the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028 took place during the implementation of two of the largest statistical operations: Population, Households and Dwellings Census in 2023 and the Agricultural Census in 2024, which significantly affected the overall organisation of the Statistical Office. Owing to the engagement of a large number of staff in the censuses, the implementation dynamics changed, which resulted in the level of implementation of activities in 2024 being lower than planned.

The Statistical Office still does not have a permanent solution to its spatial capacity issue. Staff activities continue to be carried out in rather limited office space, which prevents the full establishment of an adequate working environment. Inadequate and insufficient office space makes it difficult to apply all principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice.

The lack of human resources continues to be one of the key challenges faced by the Statistical Office. At the time of preparation of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028, the Statistical Office had 96 employees out of 169 envisaged by the *Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Systematisation of the Statistical Office* (which represents 57% of planned capacity). By the end of 2024, the total number of employees in the Statistical Office had risen to

103 (which represents 61% of planned capacity). Progress was made, but not to a sufficient extent to ensure the implementation of all defined official statistics activities.

It is a fact that staff recruitment is accompanied by staff turnover, and additional efforts will therefore be required in the coming period to prevent this phenomenon. As an example of good practice, the preparation of the *Analysis of the Employee Satisfaction Survey*, following the implementation of the Employee Satisfaction Survey (Q1 2025), should be noted. This will create the possibility of a planned approach to the policy of retaining existing staff, in line with best practice in the field of human resources management.

Furthermore, in order to foster a positive attitude towards work and the working environment, develop a sense of belonging to the new workplace and team, reduce staff turnover through stronger motivation, and ultimately improve the institution's image, the Statistical Office, in cooperation with other producers, will prepare a *Multiannual Training Programme for the Acquisition of Knowledge and Skills*. The main purpose of this document is to facilitate the adaptation of persons entering the system of official statistics by familiarising them with the scope of official statistics.

With regard to career development, capacity-building activities continued through the training of statisticians in international methodologies and standards. At the level of the statistical system, employees participated in 148 training events during 2024, including seminars, courses and meetings organised by EUROSTAT, GOPA, the ICON Institute, UNECE, and others. In addition, in 2024 two employees undertook professional training in statistical offices of European Union Member States. One internship was conducted in the area of business statistics on the topic *Business Tendency Surveys* (Warsaw, Poland), while the other was conducted in the field of labour statistics on the topic *Labour Statistics* (Pyrenees, Greece).

With regard to training organised by the Human Resources Administration, employees of the Statistical Office (only from the General Affairs, Human Resources and Finance Service) attended a total of 14 training sessions on: preparation of the staffing plan, public procurement, centralised payroll calculation, free access to information, preparation and implementation of the integrity plan, risk assessment and risk management.

The Statistical Office estimates that Chapter 18. Statistics could be provisionally closed in 2028 by reaching a high level of alignment, currently assessed at 65%, provided that the basic preconditions relating to human, financial and spatial capacities are met.

Particular emphasis in the field of official statistics is placed on the integration of the official statistical system of Montenegro into the European Statistical System (ESS), which enables the comparability of Montenegro's official statistical results with data from EU Member States.

1.5. IMPLEMENTATION IN RELATION TO PLANNED FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Under the Law on the Budget of Montenegro for 2024, funds in the amount of 11,071,534.56 euros were allocated to the Statistical Office from general budget revenues for the implementation of planned official statistics activities. Out of this amount, 67.37%, i.e. 7,459,295.11 euros, was spent. Total implemented funds in 2024 from IPA funds and other donations amounted to 362,553.40 euros, so that the total funds spent from all sources amounted to 7,821,848.51 euros.

Table 3. Financial framework for 2024, in EUR

Financial framework for 2024	Planned funds	Allocated funds	Implemented funds
1. National budget	11,740,045.99	11,071,528.86	7,459,295.11
2. Donor programme	493,229.29	5.70	362,553.40
TOTAL	12,233,275.28	11,071,534.56	7,821,848.51

** Donor programmes are implemented up to the level of execution, and their implementation may exceed the allocated donor funds.*

Pension and Disability Insurance Fund planned financial resources in the amount of 9,639.00 euros, while the other institutions of the statistical system stated that they had no costs in implementing the statistical surveys planned under the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024

Ratio of planned and spent financial resources by operational objectives

Table 4. Overview of financial resources by operational objectives, in EUR

Financial framework for 2024	Planned funds	Allocated funds	Implemented funds
Operational Objective 1	225,518.58	200,450.94	136,769.93
Operational Objective 2	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operational Objective 3	11,967,756.70	10,831,083.62	7,660,721.23
Operational Objective 4	0.00	0.00	0.00
Operational Objective 5	40,000.00	40,000.00	24,357.35
TOTAL	12,233,275.28	11,071,534.56	7,821,848.51

Operational Objective 1

The implementation of financial resources for Operational Objective 1 was lower than the planned/approved funds due to a lower contracted value compared with the estimated one, as well as because the contract was signed at the end of 2024 and its implementation falls due in 2025.

Operational Objectives 3 and 5

In 2024, out of a total of 200 statistical surveys planned under the [Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024](#), 194 were implemented, three were not implemented and three were partially implemented.

Out of 171 planned statistical surveys under the competence of the Statistical Office, 169 were implemented, while two were not implemented. Under the competence of other producers of official statistics there were 27 statistical surveys, of which 25 were implemented. A survey under the competence of the Institute of Public Health of Montenegro was not implemented, while a survey under the competence of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation was partially implemented.

Two statistical surveys for whose implementation three institutions were responsible – the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Montenegro and the Statistical Office – were partially implemented. The postponement of the Population, Households and Dwellings Census to the end of 2023 resulted in delays in activities related to the processing and dissemination of census data in 2024, which was also the reason why the MICS survey was not conducted in 2024. Certain activities were implemented according to a different plan and timetable than originally foreseen, which explains the low level of implementation of planned/approved funds. Due to insufficient human resources, it was not possible to implement the planned new surveys.

Ratio of planned and spent funds by activities contributing to the implementation of the operational objectives

Table 5. Overview of financial resources by activities contributing to the implementation of operational objectives, in EUR

Financial framework for 2024		Planned funds	Allocated funds	Implemented funds
Operational objective 1		225,518.58	200,450.94	136,769.93
Activity 1.1.2	Number of training sessions held in the field of quality management for other producers of official statistics in order to strengthen cooperation through the promotion of quality management	23,518.58	0.94	0.00
Activity 1.3.2	Number of surveys applying CAPI and CAWI data collection methods	202,000.00	200,450.00	136,769.93
	Source of financing – National budget			
Operational objective 2.		0,00	0,00	0,00
Operational objective 3.		11,967,756.70	10,831,083.62	7,660,721.23
Activity 3.1.4.	Updating national methodologies for statistical surveys in line with international best practice	182.104,30	1,00	142,865.83
	Source of financing – Donor programme			

Activity 3.1.5.	Intensifying participation in national and international working bodies aimed at the development of official statistics	296,318.33	27,221.00	167,408.18
	Source of financing – National budget and Donor programme			
Activity 3.3.1.	Planning statistical surveys based on the needs of international and national users	335,066.66	300,201.86	58,143.05
	Source of financing – National budget and Donor programme			
Activity 3.3.3.	Production of indicators for the purpose of meeting international obligations and reporting at EU and UN level under the competence of the Statistical Office	11,113,017.41	10,462,409.76	7,287,766.34
	Source of financing – National budget and Donor programme			
Activity 3.3.4.	Number of new surveys in the system of official statistics meeting the needs of international and national users	41,250.00	41,250.00	4,537.83
	Source of financing – National budget			
Operational objective 4.		0.00	0.00	0.00
Operational objective 5.		40,000.00	40,000.00	24,357.00
Activity 5.1.2.	Active dissemination of official statistics results on four social media platforms (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram)	25,000.00	25,000.00	15,546.08
	Source of financing – National budget			
Activity 5.2.2.	Continuous education of users (number of organised lectures and seminars for data users, the academic community, media representatives, etc.)	15,000.00	15,000.00	8,811.27
	Source of financing – National budget			
TOTAL		12,233,275.28	11,071,534.56	7,821,848.51

** Donor programmes are implemented up to the level of execution, and their implementation may exceed the allocated donor funds*

1.6. CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES AND TARGET VALUES WITH A GENDER DIMENSION

At the end of 2024, the total number of employees in the Statistical Office was 103. Of these, 75 were women, and 28 were men. One civil servant was temporarily assigned to another state authority (the Ministry of the Interior) as of 23 September 2024, for a period of up to six months, while one female employee is exercising the right to suspension of employment rights.

Introducing a gender perspective into the planning process of official statistics contributes to more transparent and efficient use of resources, stronger accountability, the promotion and improved measurability and effectiveness of policies, and the advancement of gender equality. Out of a total of 210 statistical surveys planned under the Programme of Official Statistics 2024–2028, analysis showed that 38, or 18%, of the surveys (from the areas of Population; Labour Market; Education and Lifelong Learning; Income and Consumption; and Justice and Crime) will provide official statistics results through which progress in achieving gender equality can be measured. During 2024, the monthly publication *Monthly Statistical Review* was published and contains official statistics results from the above statistical areas disaggregated by sex.

The publication **Women and Men in Montenegro** (tenth edition) provides a brief overview of the number of women and men in Montenegro. It was developed in response to the increasing needs of users to monitor the situation in society, inter alia, through statistical data presented by sex. Further details are provided in Chapter 2.2 *Performance indicators shown disaggregated by sex*.

In December 2024, the Statistical Office published the **Statistical Yearbook 2024**. The Statistical Yearbook is the core publication of the Statistical Office, providing a comprehensive and systematic selection of the most important data from all areas of the social and economic life of Montenegro. In addition to data collected and processed by the Statistical Office, as the main producer and disseminator of statistical data, it also publishes the results of statistical surveys conducted by other producers of official statistics, as well as data obtained from other state authorities and international statistical institutions.

Also, in December 2024, the Statistical Office published the brochure **Montenegro in Figures 2024**. The brochure contains informative data presenting a summary of the territorial, demographic, economic and social profile of Montenegro.

In December 2024, the Statistical Office published, for the first time, the release **Crime Indicators**, although crime data have been collected for Eurostat/UNODC for many years. The statistical data presented in this release relate to recorded criminal offences, persons brought into formal contact with the police, prosecuted persons, convicted persons, as well as persons in prison. In 2023, the total number of criminal offences reported to the police was 4,094. The number of persons brought into formal contact with the police was 4,343, of whom 3,909 were men, or 90.0%, and 434 were women, or 10.0%. The total number of convicted persons in 2023 amounted to 2,724. The majority of convicted persons were men, accounting for 91.4% or 2,489, while women accounted for 8.6% of the total number of convicted persons, or 235. The majority of persons in prison were men, accounting for 96.7% of the total prison population.

In the release **Population of Montenegro by Sex and Age**, the Statistical Office started publishing the final results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census, which was conducted from 3 December to 30 December 2023, in accordance with UNECE international recommendations and the guidelines of applied Regulation (EC) No 763/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council. The results presented in this release relate to the number and structure of the population according to basic demographic characteristics – sex and age – at the level of Montenegro and by municipality. The 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings

Census counted 623.633 persons with usual residence in Montenegro. Of the total population, 316.826 or 50.80% were women, while 306.807 or 49.20% were men. Women have an average age of 40.9 years, and men 38.5 years.

In the release **Population of Montenegro by Citizenship**, the results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census on the number and structure of the population of Montenegro by citizenship were presented at the level of Montenegro and by municipality, with the reference date of 31 October 2023 at 24:00. The sex structure of the population by citizenship shows that, of the total number of persons holding Montenegrin citizenship, 50.36% are women and 49.64% are men. Among foreign citizens, the share of women is 54.39%, while men account for 45.61%.

In the release **Most Common Names of the Population of Montenegro by Age and Sex**, data were presented on the most common male and female names in Montenegro by age and sex. According to the results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census, the most common female name in Montenegro is Jelena, while Nikola is the most common male name.

In the release **Population of Montenegro by Marital Status**, data were presented on the number and structure of the population by legal marital status, same-sex life partnership and consensual union. Marital status is shown for the population aged 15 and over, amounting to 511.189 persons, of whom 262.653 are women and 248.536 are men.

In the release **Population of Montenegro by Knowledge of Foreign Languages**, data were presented on the knowledge of foreign languages, defined as the ability of a person to understand, speak, read and write a foreign language. The data presented in this release relate to foreign languages known by more than 1% of the population aged 15 and over, namely English, Russian, Italian, German, French and Spanish. By sex, women have a higher share in the knowledge of almost all the above-mentioned foreign languages, except German, where men are more represented, with 53.62% compared to 46.38%. The largest female predominance is in knowledge of French (61.46% compared to 38.54%) and Spanish (65.69% compared to 34.31%).

In the release **Population of Montenegro with Difficulties/Barriers in Performing Daily Activities**, data were presented on the number and structure of the population according to difficulties/barriers in performing daily activities. Of the total population, 8.54% of persons have at least one difficulty/barrier in performing daily activities; 5.83% have difficulties/barriers related to mobility, 3.86% to vision, 2.48% to hearing, 2.02% to memory, 2.12% to self-care and 1.09% to communication. By sex, the percentage of persons with difficulties/barriers in performing daily activities is higher among women than among men, with 9.56% of women and 7.48% of men having at least one such difficulty/barrier.

In the release **Population by Computer Literacy**, data were presented on the number and structure of the population according to computer literacy. Of the total population aged 15 and over, 49.84% are computer literate, 37.03% are persons with partial computer skills, 12.90% do not know how to use a computer, while 0.23% gave no response to this question. The sex structure shows that the number of computer-literate women and men is almost the same.

In the release **Female Population and Number of Live-born Children in Montenegro**, data were presented on the number of live-born children among women aged 15 and over. Montenegro has a total of 316.826 women, of whom 262.653 are aged 15 and over. Of these, 142.144, or 44.87% of the total number of women, are of fertile age. Fertile age is the period in a woman's life during which she is capable of giving birth and is scientifically defined as the period from 15 to 49 years of age.

II. INFORMATION ON PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The role of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028 is to guide the work of the official statistical system towards achieving the most important operational objectives in the given period. At the same time, it serves to present the work of producers of official statistics to users and the general public so that they can continuously monitor the development and improvement of the official statistical system. The Strategy defines the direction of faster development of official statistics through the harmonisation of methodology, standards and good statistical practice. In this way, a higher level of methodological alignment of all surveys within the statistical system of Montenegro with the EU acquis has been achieved.

The Strategy also provides the basis for obtaining official statistics results and ensures their comparability with the statistical data of European and other countries. By adopting the Programme of Official Statistics 2024–2028 and the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024, a programme framework for obtaining official statistics results was established.

Thus, in 2024, out of a total of 200 statistical surveys planned under the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024, 194 statistical surveys were implemented (97.0%), three were not implemented and three were partially implemented.

Out of 171 planned statistical surveys under the competence of the Statistical Office, 169 were implemented, while two were not implemented.

Under the competence of other producers of official statistics there were 27 statistical surveys, of which 25 were implemented. A survey under the competence of the Institute of Public Health of Montenegro was not implemented, while a survey under the competence of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation was partially implemented.

Two statistical surveys for whose implementation three institutions were responsible – the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Montenegro and the Statistical Office – were partially implemented.

Progress in the field of official statistics is monitored primarily through the 2024 European Commission Report on Montenegro (Progress Report) on an annual basis. According to that report, with regard to Chapter 18. Statistics, a certain degree of progress and a moderate level of preparedness for EU membership were achieved. Compared with the previous year, the assessment of progress improved. With regard to fulfilling the obligations defined by the closing benchmarks for Chapter 18. Statistics, important activities were initiated regarding the redefinition of competence for the production of GFS statistics, which was formalised through amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System.

All obligations defined by the Government of Montenegro Work Programme for 2024 were implemented, namely:

1. [Report on the implementation of the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2023;](#)
2. [Report on the implementation of the Programme of Official Statistics for the period 2019–2023;](#)
3. [Final report on the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2019–2023;](#)
4. [Report on the activities carried out for the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census and on the expenditure of funds provided from the Budget of Montenegro;](#)
5. [Draft Decision on the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2025;](#)
6. [Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics;](#)
7. [Draft Law on the Agricultural Census 2024.](#)

The inclusion of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation in the system of official statistics required amendments to subordinate legislation. Therefore, at a session of the Government of Montenegro, the following were adopted in draft form:

1. [Decision on Amendments to the Decision on the Programme of Official Statistics 2024–2028 and](#)
2. [Decision amending the Decision on the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024.](#)

Recommendations from the final report

The recommendations from the Final Report on the implementation of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2019–2023 have largely been adopted and are being continuously implemented, with the exception of Recommendation No 5, which refers to office space.

RECOMMENDATION 1. Adopt a new strategy for the development of official statistics – The Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028 was adopted and published in the Official Gazette of Montenegro, No 101/24.

RECOMMENDATION 2. Improve the legislative framework by defining a new institutional framework so that competence in the production of Government Finance Statistics is aligned with

ESA 2010 standards – The Draft Law on Amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics has been established and is in parliamentary procedure.

RECOMMENDATION 3. Continue activities aimed at further modernising production and promoting the results of official statistics – In 2024, CAWI and CAPI data collection methods were introduced, increasing the number of surveys using these methods from 12 to 14, thereby contributing to the modernisation of statistical production.

Monitoring and press clipping analysis show that in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024 there were 8.858 media publications (electronic, printed and online) related to the Statistical Office, of which 7.299 were in online media. The website of the Statistical Office recorded 197.208 external users, who generated a total of 609.466 visits.

RECOMMENDATION 4. Strengthen the human resource capacities of the Statistical Office – The baseline value in 2024 (Operational Objective 2, Performance Indicator 2.1) amounted to 96 employees out of 169 planned by the Rulebook on Internal Organisation and Systematisation of the Statistical Office. By the end of 2024, the number of employees had increased to 103, representing an increase of seven employees compared with 2023.




RECOMMENDATION 5. Provide adequate office space – The Statistical Office still does not have a permanent solution to the issue of spatial capacity.

2.1 ANALYTICAL REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS BY OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF THE INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The implementation of Operational Objective 1 represents continuity in establishing an efficient management process between institutions, i.e. a mechanism for communication, monitoring, and establishing statistical processes and procedures at the level of the official statistical system.

Table 6. Level of achievement of performance indicators for Operational Objective 1

No	Performance indicator	Baseline value 2024	Achieved value at end-2024	Trend	Intermediate value 2026	Target value 2028
1.	Visibility of other producers of official statistics	Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 5%	The official website of the Statistical Office contains links to producers of official statistics, allowing users direct access to official statistics results		Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 20%	Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 50%
2.	Application of international standards in statistical registers	International standards implemented in statistical registers 10%	The number of newly introduced variables in the Statistical Business Register is 15, in line with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152, which represents achievement of the planned activity in 2024		International standards implemented in statistical registers 30%	International standards implemented in statistical registers 50%
3.	Number of variables collected from administrative data sources	Increase in the number of variables collected from administrative data sources by 3% in surveys using an administrative data source	Through amendments to a set of laws, the Statistical Office was granted access to data from Ministry of the Interior registers		Increase in the number of variables collected from administrative data sources by 5% in surveys using an administrative data source	Increase in the number of variables collected from administrative data sources by 10% in surveys using an administrative data source

The activities contributing to the implementation of Operational Objective 1, with a completion deadline in 2024, and which contributed to the improvement of official statistics within the statistical system, are presented below.

KEY ACTIVITY 1.1: Strengthening coordination within the national statistical system

Performance indicator: Visibility of other producers of official statistics

The visibility of other producers of official statistics has been increased by publishing links on the official website of the Statistical Office, enabling users to access official statistics on the websites of other producers.

In this way, the results of official statistics produced by other producers are promoted and the publication dynamics defined by the [Calendar of Publication of Statistical Data](#), [the Annual Plan of Official Statistics](#) and the five-year [Programme of Official Statistics](#) are monitored.

Baseline value: Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 5%.

Intermediate value: Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 20%.

Target value: Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 50%.

Result indicators:

- Establishment of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro;
- Publication of links to other producers of official statistics, with the aim of improving the visibility of the results of other producers of official statistics on the website of the coordinator of the statistical system, the Statistical Office, in accordance with the Calendar of Publication of Statistical Data. The links are available on the website of the Statistical Office under the section *SYSTEM*. Link:
<https://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=16&pageid=16>

Activity 1.1.1: Establishment of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro

The Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro was established by the Decision on the Establishment of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro, No. 01-041/24-4169/1 of 26 September 2024. Members were appointed from among representatives of the Statistical Office and other producers of official statistics. The tasks of the Expert Team include the active participation of other producers in the implementation of quality management, strengthening inter-institutional cooperation, improving the visibility of the results of official statistics produced by other producers, as well as coordinating cooperation among institutions responsible for implementing the indicators and activities of the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics 2024–2028 and consolidating information for reporting purposes. Following the inclusion of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation in the system of official statistics, a Decision amending the Decision on the Establishment of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro was adopted, extending the membership of the Team to include a representative of that Ministry as a producer of official statistics. Rules of Procedure of the Expert Team of the Statistical System were also adopted, defining in detail the activities of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro. In 2024, two meetings of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro were held.

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 1.1.1 *Establishment of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro*.

KEY ACTIVITY 1.2: Strengthening the statistical system for the purpose of improving statistical registers and standards

Performance indicator: Application of international standards in statistical registers

The application of international standards in statistical registers consists of several phases; accordingly, activities were defined that will affect the implementation of the Operational Objective and reporting on performance. The implementation of activities aimed at introducing new variables in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 is only the beginning and represents the achievement of the planned activity in 2024. In addition, the activity of defining the *Glossary of Statistical Terms*, originally planned for 2025, was also implemented.

Baseline value: International standards implemented in statistical registers 10%.

Intermediate value: International standards implemented in statistical registers 30%.

Target value: International standards implemented in statistical registers 50%.

Result indicators:

- Defined *Glossary of Statistical Terms*;
- Number of newly introduced variables in the *Statistical Business Register* in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152.

Activity 1.2.1: Defined “Glossary of Statistical Terms”

The Glossary of Statistical Terms is intended for professional statisticians, researchers, students and other users of official statistics results. Its use should help remove difficulties encountered in the use of specific statistical terms and encourage and accelerate the standardisation of their use. The purpose of the *Glossary of Statistical Terms* is to ensure that the same statistical terms are used in statistical production, and it will be updated annually. The *Glossary of Statistical Terms* was prepared in accordance with EUROSTAT’s glossary of terms and concepts. It was published in January 2023 in cooperation with other producers of official statistics (Report on the Consultations Conducted). The *Glossary of Statistical Terms* is available on the website of the Statistical Office

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 1.2.1 Defined “Glossary of Statistical Terms.

Activity 1.2.7: Number of newly introduced variables in the “Statistical Business Register” in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152

A total of 15 new variables were introduced into the Statistical Business Register, representing a higher degree of harmonisation with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152. This progress created the possibility for the production of new data and a higher degree of compliance with European standards and definitions in the production of official statistics results.

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 1.2.7 *Number of newly introduced variables in the “Statistical Business Register” in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152.*

Activity 1.2.8: Defined competence of the “Register of Classification Units” in accordance with legal provisions

During the reporting period, this activity was not implemented. The reason for non-implementation lies in the interconnection and interdependence of activities, whereby a delay in one activity causes a chain reaction and prevents the implementation of related activities, which was the case here.

The objective of this activity is to define the competence for the registration and record-keeping of entities that do not perform an economic activity. Since 2010, the Statistical Office has been carrying out the classification of classification units. At the time, this was envisaged as a transitional solution until the legal conditions for defining competence could be established. Considering legislative changes regulating the work of entities that do not perform an economic activity that occurred after 2010, the conditions have now been met for the classification process, as well as the determination of the identification number, to be carried out by the competent authorities responsible for their registration.

The Government of Montenegro established an interdepartmental working group tasked with preparing the *Analysis of the Regulatory Framework for the Classification of Organizations that Do Not Perform an Economic Activity* and the *Plan for Further Reform in the Field of Maintaining Classification Data on Organizations that Do Not Perform an Economic Activity*. For the needs of the working group, the Statistical Office prepared an analysis entitled *Register of Classification Units of Organizations and Communities that Do Not Perform an Economic Activity* and indicated the classification procedure by activity carried out by the Statistical Office.

The implementation of Activity 1.2.8, *Defined competence of the “Register of Classification Units” in accordance with legal provisions*, is conditional upon the results of the interdepartmental working group and the procedure for adopting the law that will define the competence of the “Register of Classification Units”.

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 1.2.8 *Defined competence of the “Register of Classification Units” in accordance with legal provisions*.

KEY ACTIVITY 1.3 Improve cooperation with data providers/reporting units

Performance indicator: Number of variables collected from administrative data sources

Statistical and methodological coordination in the exchange of administrative data and the introduction of new variables for statistical purposes would reduce data collection costs as well as the burden on reporting units. In 2024, an activity aimed at preparing the *Analysis of Existing and Potential Administrative Data Sources for the Production of Official Statistics* was implemented, and the number of statistical surveys using the CAPI and CAWI data collection methods increased.

Baseline value: Increase in the number of variables collected from administrative data sources by 3% in surveys using an administrative data source.

Intermediate value: Increase in the number of variables collected from administrative data sources by 5% in surveys using an administrative data source.

Target value: Increase in the number of variables collected from administrative data sources by 10% in surveys using an administrative data source.

Result indicators:

- Prepared *Analysis of Existing and Potential Administrative Data Sources for the Production of Official Statistics*;
- Number of surveys applying the CAPI and CAWI method.

Activity 1.3.1: Prepared and continuously updated “Analysis of Existing and Potential Administrative Data Sources for the Production of Official Statistics”

In cooperation with other producers, the Statistical Office prepared the *Analysis of Existing and Potential Administrative Data Sources for the Production of Official Statistics*, thereby mapping administrative data sources within the system of official statistics with a view to integrating data from different sources. This analysis concerns the use of administrative data sources in the system of official statistics and provides an overview of the state of existing administrative data sources for the production of official statistics, as well as an approach for updating potential data sources for statistical purposes. The purpose of the analysis is to reduce the burden on respondents and statisticians in order to avoid repeated requests for data submission, in line with the principles of official statistics and the European Statistics Code of Practice. As a result of this analysis, an initiative was launched to formalise cooperation with the Ministry of Spatial Planning, Urbanism and State Property. The analysis was prepared in cooperation with other producers (*Report on the Consultations Conducted*).

A meeting on this topic was held with representatives of UN Montenegro and UNICEF, who proposed cooperation with their consultants working on a project within the Ministry of Public Administration, with the aim of jointly identifying, standardising and systematising databases/registers and exchanging data among them.

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 1.3.1 *Defined “Analysis of Existing and Potential Administrative Data Sources for the Production of Official Statistics”*.

Activity 1.3.2: Number of surveys applying the CAPI and CAWI method




Modernisation of data collection improves efficiency, increases quality and reduces the burden on reporting units. In 2024, two surveys applied the CAPI/CAWI method of data collection, resulting in an increase compared to 2023, from a total of 12 to 14 statistical surveys.

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 1.3.2 *Number of surveys applying the CAPI and CAWI data collection method*.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3. CONTINUING ALIGNMENT WITH EU STANDARDS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The implementation of Operational Objective 3 represents continuity in applying international and national methodological statistical standards.

Table 7. Level of achievement of performance indicators for Operational Objective 3

NO	Performance indicator	Baseline value 2024	Achieved value at end-2024	Trend	Intermediate value 2026	Target value 2028
1.	Alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis	Activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics implemented at the level of 60%	Draft law on amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System established		Activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics implemented at the level of 80%	Activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics implemented at the level of 98%
2.	Fulfilment of closing benchmarks for Chapter 18 – Statistics	Activities contributing to the fulfilment of the closing benchmarks for Chapter 18 – Statistics fulfilled at the level of 50%	Roadmap defined for meeting the remaining obligations of the negotiation process in Chapter 18 – Statistics, with particular reference to closing benchmarks		Activities contributing to the fulfilment of the closing benchmarks for Chapter 18 – Statistics fulfilled at the level of 80%	Activities contributing to the fulfilment of the closing benchmarks for Chapter 18 – Statistics fulfilled at the level of 98%
3.	Availability of official statistics results of Montenegro in EUROSTAT and UN databases	Official statistics results available at the level of 60%	Partial progress		Official statistics results available at the level of 70%	Official statistics results available at the level of 80%

The activities contributing to the implementation of Operational Objective 3, with a completion deadline in 2024, and which contributed to the improvement of official statistics within the statistical system, are presented below.

KEY ACTIVITY 3.1: Further application of international and national methodological (statistical) standards

Performance indicator: Alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis

The legal framework in the field of official statistics consists of legal acts directly applicable in Member States, such as regulations of the European Parliament and of the Council and decisions and regulations of the European Commission. The legal framework of official statistics also includes a number of methodological manuals and guidelines for various statistical areas, such as agriculture and economic, social and demographic statistics. International treaties and international standards, such as the European Statistics Code of Practice, provide a further basis for statistical production. Further application of international and national methodological statistical standards is a measure that producers of official statistics will continue to follow in the next five-year period.

The Statistical Office estimates that Chapter 18. Statistics could potentially be provisionally closed in 2028 by reaching a high level of alignment, currently assessed at 65%, provided that the basic preconditions relating to human, financial and spatial capacities are met.

Baseline value: Activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics implemented at the level of 60%.

Intermediate value: Activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics implemented at the level of 80%.

Target value: Activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics implemented at the level of 98%.

Result indicator:

- Updated information on the level of fulfilment of the EU acquis in Chapter 18. Statistics, in relation to the defined Negotiating Position.

ACTIVITY 3.1.1: Updated information on the level of fulfilment of the EU acquis in Chapter 18. Statistics in relation to the defined Negotiating Position

The information on the level of fulfilment of the EU acquis in Chapter 18. Statistics, in relation to the defined Negotiating Position, constitutes an important quantification of implemented activities across all statistical areas, as well as an overview of challenges in further harmonisation with the EU acquis.

The purpose of preparing this information is to quantify the current EU acquis, identify current challenges and assess the need to amend the Negotiating Position with a view to formalising existing inconsistencies.

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 3.1.1 *Updated information on the level of fulfilment of the EU acquis in Chapter 18. Statistics in relation to the defined Negotiating Position.*

Activity 3.1.2: Establishment of the Draft Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics

The Law on Amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics was prepared at the initiative of representatives of the Ministry of Finance. For this purpose, a Working Group was established comprising representatives of the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Montenegro, the Statistical Office and the NGO sector.

The key amendments concern the competence for the production of Government Finance Statistics between the Ministry of Finance and the Statistical Office, in order to enable the smooth implementation of the production of Government Finance Statistics. The amendments also envisage the conclusion of an Agreement defining mutual relations in connection with statistical activities, as well as changes in the composition of the Statistical System Council.

The Government of Montenegro established [Proposal to the Law on Amendments to the Law of Official Statistics and Official Statistical System](#) which is currently in parliamentary procedure.

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 3.1.2 *Establishment of the Draft Law on Official Statistics and the System of Official Statistics*.

KEY ACTIVITY 3.2: Further application of international and national methodological (statistical) standards

Performance indicator: Intensification of activities aimed at fulfilling the closing negotiation benchmarks for Chapter 18. Statistics

Baseline value: Chapter 18. Statistics opened.

Intermediate value: Activities contributing to the fulfilment of the closing benchmarks for Chapter 18. Statistics implemented at the level of 80%.

Target value: Activities contributing to the fulfilment of the closing benchmarks for Chapter 18 – Statistics implemented at the level of 98%.

Result indicator:

- Defined Roadmap for fulfilling the remaining obligations of the negotiation process in Chapter 18. Statistics, with particular reference to the closing benchmarks.

Activity 3.2.1: Defined “Roadmap for fulfilling the remaining obligations of the negotiation process in Chapter 18. Statistics, with particular reference to the closing benchmarks”

The preparation of the Roadmap represents a plan of activities for meeting the closing benchmarks, with emphasis on the area of national accounts. However, progress in all statistical areas represents a necessary precondition for the successful implementation of activities defined by the *Roadmap for fulfilling the remaining obligations of the negotiation process in Chapter 18. Statistics, with particular reference to the closing benchmarks*.

The activities defined in the document imply alignment across all statistical areas, the results of which are necessary for aligning national accounts statistics, on which the benchmarks for closing the chapter are based.

A Final Report was prepared for this result indicator under Activity 3.2.1 *Defined Roadmap for fulfilling the remaining obligations of the negotiation process in Chapter 18. Statistics, with particular reference to the closing benchmarks.*

KEY ACTIVITY 3.3: Greater availability of official statistics results of Montenegro in EUROSTAT and UN databases

Performance indicator: Availability of official statistics results of Montenegro in EUROSTAT and UN databases

Baseline value: Official statistics results available at the level of 60%.

Intermediate value: Official statistics results available at the level of 70%.

Target value: Official statistics results available at the level of 80%.

Result indicators:

- Production of indicators for the purpose of meeting international obligations and reporting at EU and UN level under the competence of the Statistical Office;
- Number of new surveys in the system of official statistics meeting the needs of international and national users.

Activity 3.3.3: Production of indicators for the purpose of meeting international obligations and reporting at EU and UN level under the competence of the Statistical Office (continuous activity)

In 2024, out of a total of 200 statistical surveys planned under the [Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2024](#), 194 were implemented, three were not implemented and three were partially implemented. Out of 171 planned statistical surveys under the competence of the Statistical Office, 169 were implemented, while two were not implemented. Under the competence of other producers of official statistics there were 27 statistical surveys, of which 25 were implemented. A survey under the competence of the Institute of Public Health of Montenegro was not implemented, while a survey under the competence of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation was partially implemented. Two statistical surveys for whose implementation three institutions were responsible – the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank of Montenegro and the Statistical Office – were partially implemented.

The Statistical Office regularly transmits official statistics results from 56 domains, i.e. statistical areas, to EUROSTAT.

During the reporting period, data from 33 domains (60%), i.e. 192 different data sets, were transmitted to EUROSTAT via the EDAMIS portal.

National accounts data, STS data and price data are transmitted to EUROSTAT in SDMX format, as are certain data sets from external trade statistics and agricultural statistics.

Continuous efforts are being made to increase the number of data domains and data sets transmitted to EUROSTAT via EDAMIS. In addition to data, the Statistical Office also regularly transmits metadata on statistical surveys. Metadata are transmitted through the European Statistical System Metadata Handler (ESS MH), developed by EUROSTAT. The standards to be met when transmitting metadata are SIMS (Single Integrated Metadata Structure) or ESMS (Euro SDMX Metadata Structure).

The Statistical Office prepared an overview of available indicators (as of October 2024) and the *Report on SDG Indicators from the EU List*, as well as the *Overview of MONSTAT obligations under the National Sustainable Development Strategy*.

Consultations were held with the Head of Section within the Statistical Office, and a *Report on the Consultations Conducted*, together with an Annex, was prepared.

This overview formed the basis for participation in consultative meetings organised by the Office for Sustainable Development in November 2024.

A representative of the Statistical Office took part in one-day training sessions on the integration of Sustainable Development Goal indicators (SDG indicators) into strategic documents, organised by the Office for Sustainable Development within the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

The role of official statistics in the process of producing SDG indicators was the topic of a guest lecture for civil servants participating in the training sessions.

The purpose of the training was to enhance the knowledge and skills of employees in state institutions in using the SDG indicators platform, highlight the importance of official statistics results, strengthen awareness of the importance of strategic planning, and support the production of sustainable development indicators.

A representative of the Statistical Office also participated in a one-day workshop for staff from ministries and state institutions on *Integrating Missing Child-related Indicators into the Sustainable Development Goals Monitoring Platform*, aimed at improving the collection and monitoring of indicators/data related to children in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals under Agenda 2030.

Following the workshop, one-day consultations were held on the draft Action Plan of the *Statement of Commitment of Montenegro to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals*. The draft Action Plan of the Statement of Commitment was prepared in order to ensure

further progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Montenegro and to focus attention on areas where progress has been insufficient or absent.

Following the consultations, a session of the Expert Collegium was held, at which the draft Action Plan of the Statement of Commitment of Montenegro to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the obligations of the Statistical Office were presented.

The Statistical Office provided comments on the draft Action Plan of the Statement of Commitment of Montenegro to the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, after which consultations were held with a consultant from the Office for Sustainable Development on the possibilities for implementing certain indicators.

Representatives of the Statistical Office participated in the workshop and expert meeting *The 2024 Workshop & 8th Expert Meeting on Statistics for Sustainable Development Goals*, held in Tirana in October 2024. The workshop and expert meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals were intended for staff from national statistical institutions, international organisations and other stakeholders involved in the production, communication and coordination of reporting on statistics for the Sustainable Development Goals. The focus of the meeting was on strategic issues, and it served as a platform for exchanging experiences, good practices and innovative solutions to the challenges faced, as well as for identifying priorities for future methodological work and capacity development in this field.

Activity 3.3.4: Number of new surveys in the system of official statistics meeting the needs of international and national users

The results of official statistics, as the final output of statistical production, are the basis for comparison with other countries. The focus of producers of official statistics will be directed towards introducing new statistical surveys of direct interest to data users and of general interest at national or European level.

In [the Annual Plan of Official Statistics](#) for 2024, six new statistical surveys were planned in the domains of environment and multi-domain statistics, demography and social statistics, and economic statistics:

1. Environmental protection investments – pilot;
2. Multiple Indicator Survey – MICS;
3. Statistics on immigrants to Montenegro;
4. Statistics on emigrants from Montenegro – pilot;
5. Development of elements required for the calculation of quarterly Gross Domestic Product by the income approach – pilot;
6. Calculation of quarterly Gross Domestic Product by the income approach – pilot.



In 2024, the *Multiple Indicator Survey – MICS* was not implemented due to insufficient financial resources for its conduct, as well as the unavailability of the 2023 Population, Households and

Dwellings Census database, which would have served as the sampling frame. It has therefore been planned again in [the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2025](#).

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. PRODUCTION OF RELEVANT, TIMELY AND HIGH-QUALITY OFFICIAL STATISTICS THROUGH THE USE OF INNOVATIVE DATA SOURCES AND TECHNOLOGIES

The implementation of Operational Objective 5 will contribute to improving the visibility of official statistics results

Table 8. Level of achievement of performance indicators for Operational Objective 5

NO	Performance indicator	Baseline value 2024	Achieved value at end-2024	Trend	Intermediate value 2026	Target value 2028
1.	Overview of progress in the use of digital skills for the visualisation of official statistics results	Partial progress	Partial progress		Progress achieved	Significant progress
2.	Promotion of official statistics results	Definition of the Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office	Concept for the Development of Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office for 2025–2028 defined		50% of activities defined by the Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office implemented	100% of activities defined by the Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office implemented

KEY ACTIVITY 5.1: Increasing the visibility of official statistics by introducing modern technological tools in the data dissemination process, as well as by improving the digital skills of employees for the visualisation of official statistics results

Performance indicator: Overview of progress in the use of digital skills for the visualisation of official statistics results.

Baseline value: Partial progress.

Intermediate value: Progress achieved.

Target value: Significant progress.

Result indicators:

- Active dissemination of official statistics results on three social media platforms;
- Number of published statistical video contents.

Activity 5.1.2: Active dissemination of official statistics results on three social media platforms (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram) – continuous activity

In 2024, work continued on increasing visibility and raising awareness of the availability and importance of official statistics results. A total of 107 items containing official statistics results were published on social media (Instagram, X, LinkedIn).

Activity 5.1.4: Number of published statistical video contents – continuous activity

Six video contents were published relating to:

- Students’ Day / animation;
- Population, Households and Dwellings Census 2023 / Statement by the Director of the Statistical Office on the launch of the data verification software;
- Population, Households and Dwellings Census 2023 / Announcement of the presentation of final results;
- Population, Households and Dwellings Census 2023 / Introductory address by the Director of the Statistical Office on the presentation of the results of the 2023 Census;
- Agricultural Census 2024 / introductory video, promotional video; and

Agricultural Census 2024 / informational video with representatives of other institutions.

KEY ACTIVITY 5.2: Raising awareness of the availability and importance of official statistics results

Performance indicator 5.2: Promotion of official statistics results

In 2024, work continued on promoting official statistics results and improving the availability of statistical data to users. These activities included:

- publication of 180 statistical releases (monthly, quarterly and annual), as well as 4 publications (online and printed), in accordance with the [Statistical Release Calendar for 2024](#);
- publication of 107 items containing results of official statistics on three social media platforms (Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram) and 6 videos;
- responses to 834 user requests, of which 150 related to media requests and 684 to other user enquiries.

Table 9. User requests received through the official addresses of the Statistical Office in 2024

STATISTICAL AREA	NO of REQUESTS	MEDIA
Business Register	30	3
Prices	97	2
Demography and Population Census	153	86
Short-term indicators	44	4
National Accounts	19	4

Agriculture	26	20
External Trade	163	10
Education, research and development, culture, justice and public administration statistics	9	2
Labour market, living conditions, social services and household consumption statistics	77	13
Tourism	48	2
ICT usage	10	-
Environment	6	-
Other	2	4
TOTAL	684	150

Monitoring and press clipping analysis show that, in the period from 1 January to 31 December 2024, there were 8,858 media publications (electronic, printed and online) relating to the Statistical Office, of which 7,299 were in online media. The website of the Statistical Office recorded 197,208 external users, who generated 609,466 visits.

The User Satisfaction Survey was conducted in Q4 2024. The survey provides information on users' needs for official statistics results and their satisfaction with the data and services produced by the official statistical system of Montenegro.

On 15 October 2024, the Statistical Office held a press conference to present the final results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census. On that occasion, 18 social media posts were published, including the conference announcement, video material and presentations of the final data. The material from the conference is available in the [Population Census 2023](#) domain. In accordance with the publication plan for the results of the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census, 10 final releases (population) with Excel databases were published in the [Population Census 2023](#) domain.

For the first time, the Statistical Office published a [release on crime indicators](#), although such data have been collected for Eurostat/UNODC for many years. The statistical data presented in that release relate to recorded criminal offences, persons brought into formal contact with the police, prosecuted persons, convicted persons and persons in prison.

Within the IPA 2022 MB multi-beneficiary programme, an expert mission for the Communication project was carried out as a continuation of activities under the IPA 2019 project. The aim of the mission was to improve the communication skills and practices of staff of the Statistical Office, identify challenges in communication with users of official statistical data, improve the dissemination of official statistical data and services through the use of modern technology, and improve the statistical product in line with the needs of data users.

The Statistical Office joined the European statistical community in marking [European Statistics Day on 20 October 2024](#). Under the slogan [Official statistics – a window for understanding society](#), the aim was to draw public attention to the key role of official statistics in understanding society, making timely decisions at all levels, and planning policies and strategies.

During 2024, activities were carried out to prepare and implement the public campaign for the Agricultural Census 2024, conducted from 1 October to 1 December. These activities included:

- organisation of the presentation [Towards the Agricultural Census](#), with the participation of an international expert, aimed at familiarising the broader and professional public with the methodological concepts and organisational elements for its implementation;
- creation of the [Agricultural Census 2024](#) domain on the website of the Statistical Office, where all materials intended for users during the preparation and implementation of the Census are available;
- holding panel discussions in municipalities and areas with intensive agricultural production in cooperation with census commissions, with the aim of informing agricultural producers about the importance of the Agricultural Census and their obligations in providing data;
- preparation of elements of the public campaign, including the logo, slogan, brochure, animation, informational video, and banners for Google and social media: <https://monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=2181&pageid=1814>
- holding a meeting with media representatives to inform them about the importance of the Agricultural Census 2024 and its benefits for society as a whole;
- opening the *Census Information Centre* for citizens' questions, available every day from 8:00 to 20:00 during the field data collection period;
- social media campaign including video material and infographics, and
- appearances on TV and radio programmes at national and local level.

Baseline value: Definition of the *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office*.

Intermediate value: 50% of activities defined by the *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office* implemented.

Target value: 100% of activities defined by the *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office* implemented.

Result indicator:

- Four-year *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2025–2028*.

Activity 5.2.1: Four-year Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2025–2028

During 2024, instead of the *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2025–2028*, the four-year *Concept for the Development of Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office for the period 2025–2028* was prepared.

Given that the methodology for preparing strategic documents relies on the Regulation on the manner and procedure for preparing, harmonising and monitoring the implementation of strategic documents, which requires a different approach, and taking into account the importance of this

document as well as the limited human resources available at the time of preparation, the decision was made to adopt the *Concept for the Development of Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2025–2028*, which will serve as the starting point for preparing the *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2026–2029*, in line with the Strategy for the Development of Official Statistics and the Programme of Official Statistics.

The preparation of the *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2026–2029* is planned under the Government of Montenegro Work Programme for 2025.

For this partially implemented result indicator, a Final Report was prepared under Activity 5.2.1 *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2025–2028*.

2.2. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS SHOWN DISAGGREGATED BY SEX

The key achievements in implementing the performance indicator *Promotion of official statistics results* include the publication in 2024 of [Women and Men in Montenegro](#), which provides an overview of the number of women and men in our society. It was produced in response to the growing needs of users to monitor, among other things, the state of society through statistical data presented by sex. The publication was first issued in 2006 and has since been published every second year.

The publication *Women and Men* consists of tables and charts without additional statistical and sociological analysis and can serve as a source of information for users interested in the status of women and men, as well as gender equality in Montenegro. Gender equality means that women and men are equally present in all areas of public and private life, have equal status, equal opportunities to exercise their rights, and equal benefit from achieved results. The publication was supported by the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and the NGO Women's Rights Centre

Population

Since the 1920s, when 311.341 inhabitants lived in the territory of present-day Montenegro, until the most recent Population, Households and Dwellings Census in 2023 (623.633), the population has almost doubled. The sex structure of the population shows that, during the observed period, there were more women (316.826) than men (306.807) in the total population. The lowest masculinity rate in the last fifty years was recorded in 2023, when it stood at 968.4 men per 1.000 women.

According to the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census, in the youngest age group (0–2 years) there are more boys (51.56%), while in the oldest age group (65 years and over) there are more women, amounting to as much as 56.17%.

The analysis of the sex structure of the population by age shows the predominance of the male population up to the age group 20–24. In older age groups, due to differences in mortality by age and sex and the structure of migrants by sex and age, women become more numerous.

The total number of people who migrated within Montenegro in 2023 was 3.958, of whom 54% were women and 46% were men.

The average age of women and men at first marriage in 2023 was 28 years for women and 31 years for men.

Between 2013 and 2018, exposure to the risk of poverty decreased among women, while it remained relatively unchanged among men. In 2019, the at-risk-of-poverty rate increased slightly for both women and men, while from 2020 onwards there was a more significant decline in exposure to the risk of poverty for both categories

Vital events

In Montenegro, since statistics on live births and deaths by sex have been recorded, fewer girls than boys have been born. Thus, in 2023, girls accounted for 49.3% of total live births, and women accounted for 48.0% of total deaths. The total number of live-born children is declining, although more boys than girls continue to be born.

Natural increase in Montenegro in 2023 was positive and amounted to 681. The highest natural increase was recorded in 1954, when it amounted to 10,566, while the lowest was recorded in 2021, when it amounted to 2,119.

Life expectancy – A girl born in Montenegro in 2023 can expect to live 80.2 years, while a boy born in the same year can expect to live 75.1 years. The analysis of the sex structure of deceased persons shows that men account for a higher share than women in the total number of deaths.

Education

The greatest progress has been recorded in education, where women achieve outstanding results. The data indicate that women not only constitute the majority in higher education, but also consistently achieve strong academic results, which is a strong indicator of their contribution to the development of society and their potential for even greater professional and social advancement.

The total number of children enrolled in pre-school institutions in the 2023/2024 school year amounted to 25.077. Of the total number enrolled, girls accounted for 47.8% (11.993) and boys for 52.2% (13.084). Compared with the previous school year, the number of enrolled children increased by 1.7%. Of the total number of enrolled children, 95.2% were enrolled in public institutions.

The number of pupils enrolled in primary schools at the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year was 70.669, and 153 pupils were enrolled in resource centres. Of the total number of pupils enrolled in primary school, 48.2% or 34.052 were girls and 51.8% or 36.617 were boys. The sex structure of teaching staff shows that 79.9% or 4.350 were women, while 20.1% or 1,092 were men.

The number of students enrolled in secondary schools at the beginning of the 2023/2024 school year was 25.727, while 137 students were enrolled in resource centres. Of the total number of students enrolled in secondary school, 48.9% or 12.584 were female and 51.1% or 13.143 male.

During 2023, data were provided on enrolment for pre-school, primary and secondary education, and on completed studies in higher education institutions in Montenegro. A total of 3.084 students graduated from undergraduate studies, which is 26.9% more than in the previous calendar year. Of the total number of undergraduate graduates, 61.8% (1,906) were women and 38.2% (1.178) were men.

In 2023, 1.429 students completed postgraduate and doctoral studies at higher education institutions in Montenegro. A total of 1.414 students completed postgraduate studies, of whom 746 or 52.8% completed specialist studies and 668 or 47.2% completed master's studies. Of the total number of students who completed master's studies, 560 or 83.8% completed them at public higher education institutions, while 108 or 16.2% completed them at private higher education institutions. Of all master's graduates, 70.2% (469) were women and 29.8% (199) were men.

In 2023, the title of Doctor of Science was obtained by 15 persons. Of this number, 60% (9) were women and 40% (6) were men.

Employment

In the sector *Transport, Storage and Communications*, significantly more men (13.3 thousand) than women (4.0 thousand) were employed, while in the *Education* sector there were more women (12.7 thousand) than men (4.8 thousand).

Activity rates are highest in the age group 25–49 and amount to 88.0% for men and 79.2% for women.

The highest unemployment rate is in the age group 15–24 and amounts to 27.7% for women and 20.0% for men.

Of the total number of employed persons, 272.0 thousand or 97.7% are employed full-time, while 6.3 thousand or 2.3% are employed part-time. Of the total number of full-time employees, 148.9 thousand or 54.7% are men and 123.1 thousand or 45.3% are women. Of the total number of part-time employees, 3.4 thousand or 54.0% are men and 2.9 thousand or 46.0% are women.

2.3. REVIEW OF CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. Further improvement of institutional coordination of official statistics

Activity 1.2.8 *Defined competence of the Register of Classification Units* affects the implementation of Operational Objective 1. During the reporting period, this activity was not

implemented due to the interconnection and interdependence of activities, as a delay in one activity creates a chain reaction and prevents the implementation of related activities.

Operational Objective 5. Production of relevant, timely and high-quality official statistics through the use of innovative data sources and technologies

The activity planned in 2024 was partially implemented due to insufficient staff in the Department for Dissemination and Management of Statistical Databases and Quality. The new deadline for implementation is Q4 2025. In order to overcome these challenges, a Working Group has been established to prepare the *Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2026–2029*, together with a two-year Action Plan for its implementation (for 2026 and 2027).

The Strategy for Dissemination and Communication for the period 2026–2029, together with the two-year Action Plan for 2026 and 2027, is planned under the Government of Montenegro Work Programme for 2025 and the Programme of Accession of Montenegro to the European Union.

2.4. OBSTACLES OR RISKS PREVENTING CITIZENS FROM BENEFITING FROM PUBLIC POLICY OUTPUTS

In accordance with Article 50, paragraph 3 [Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System](#), any deviation from the deadlines set out in the [Statistical Release Calendar](#) for 2024 was announced and explained.

In 2024, five notices on the postponement of statistical releases were published on the website of the Statistical Office, mainly for technical reasons.

III. REPORTING TABLES

The reporting table constitutes an annex to the narrative part of the report and contains all key information related to the performance of activities implemented during the reporting period 2024. The data on activities follow the Action Plan of the strategic document.

Table 10. Reporting on the performance of activity implementation

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE:		The objective of official statistics is to provide all users with results of official statistics produced in accordance with the principles of official statistics, prescribed national and international methodologies, and in compliance with ethical and professional standards.					
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1: Further improvement of institutional coordination of official statistics							
Performance indicator 1. Visibility of other producers of official statistics		Baseline value (2024) Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 5%		Target value (2026) Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 20%		Target value (2028) Increased visibility of other producers of official statistics by 50%	
Performance indicator 2. Application of international standards in statistical registers		Baseline value (2024) Implementation of international standards in statistical registers: 10%		Target value (2026) Implementation of international standards in statistical registers: 30%		Target value (2028) Implementation of international standards in statistical registers: 50%	
Performance indicator 3. Number of variables collected from administrative data sources		Baseline value (2024) Increase in the number of collected variables from administrative data sources by 3% in surveys that use administrative data sources		Target value (2026) Increase in the number of collected variables from administrative data sources by 5% in surveys that use administrative data sources		Baseline value (2028) Increase in the number of collected variables from administrative data sources by 10% in surveys that use administrative data sources	
Activity	Result indicator	Institution	Deadline	Status of Result Indicator Implementation	Planned/Spent Funds	New Deadline and Justification	Recommendations

1.1.1 Establishment of the » Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro «	Decision on the establishment of the expert team	Statistical Office	IQ 2024. - IVQ 2024.	Decision adopted. The establishment of the team will ensure active participation of other producers in the system of official statistics	Current funds Regular budget funds, Programme <i>National Statistics</i>	-	Timely implement the activities defined by the Rules of Procedure of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro
1.2.7. Number of newly introduced variables in the Statistical Business Register in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152	Number of new variables	Statistical Office	IQ 2024. - IIQ 2024.	15 variables introduced. Compliance with Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 has been achieved	Current funds Regular budget funds, Programme <i>National Statistics</i>	-	Continue with the implementation of standards in statistical registers
1.2.8. Defined competence of the "Register of Classification Units" in accordance with legal provisions	Competence defined in accordance with legal provisions	Statistical Office	IQ 2024. - IIQ 2024.	The competence has not been defined in accordance with legal provisions.	Current funds Regular budget funds, Programme <i>National Statistics</i>	Q4 2025.	Continue with the active participation of the Statistical Office in the Interdepartmental Working Group (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 97/23), whose task is to prepare the "Analysis of the regulatory framework for the classification of organizations that do not perform economic activities" and the "Plan for further reform in the field of maintaining classification data on organizations that do not perform economic activities."

1.3.2. Number of surveys that will apply the CAPI and CAWI data collection methods	Number of surveys using CAPI and CAWI	Statistical Office	IQ 2024. - IVQ 2024.	The CAPI/CAWI method for data collection was applied in two statistical surveys	Regular budget funds, Programme <i>National Statistics</i> Planned €200.450,00 Spent €136.769,93	-	Continue with the application of CAPI and CAWI methods
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 3: Continuation of alignment with EU standards and recommendations of international institutions, and cooperation in the field of official statistics							
Performance Indicator 1. Alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis		Baseline value (2024) Implemented activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics at a level of 60%		Target value (2026) Implemented activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics at a level of 80%		Target value (2028) Implemented activities contributing to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics at a level of 98%	
Performance Indicator 2. Fulfilment of the final benchmarks of Negotiation Chapter 18. Statistics		Baseline value (2024) Activities contributing to the fulfilment of the final benchmarks of Chapter 18. Statistics at a level of 50%		Target value (2026) Activities contributing to the fulfilment of the final benchmarks of Chapter 18. Statistics at a level of 80%		Target value (2028) Activities contributing to the fulfilment of the final benchmarks of Chapter 18. Statistics at a level of 98%	
Performance Indicator 3. Availability of Montenegro's official statistics results in EUROSTAT and UN databases		Baseline value (2024) Available official statistics results at a level of 60%		Target value (2026) Available official statistics results at a level of 70%		Target value (2028) Available official statistics results at a level of 80%	
Activity	Result Indicator	Institution	Deadline	Status of Result Indicator Implementation	Planned/Spent Funds	New Deadline and Justification	Recommendations

3.1.1. Updated information on the level of compliance with the EU acquis in Negotiation Chapter 18. Statistics in relation to the defined Negotiating Position	Information in the form of a document	Statistical Office	IQ 2024. - IQ 2024.	Document prepared. The purpose of this information is to quantify the current EU acquis, identify existing challenges, and assess the need for amendments to the Negotiating Position	Current funds Regular budget funds, Programme <i>National Statistics</i>	-	Implement activities that contribute to the alignment of legal regulations with the EU acquis in the field of official statistics
3.1.2. Amendment of the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System	Adoption of the draft Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System	Ministry of Finance, Statistical Office	IQ 2024. - IIQ 2024.	Draft adopted. The Government of Montenegro, at the session held on 28 November 2024, reviewed and adopted the draft law on amendments to the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System	Current funds Regular budget funds, Programme <i>National Statistics</i>	-	Conclude a Cooperation Agreement between the Statistical Office, the Central Bank of Montenegro, and the Ministry of Finance to clearly define the responsibilities of all institutions and their competencies in the preparation and production of GFS statistics.
3.2.1. Defined Roadmap for fulfilling the remaining obligations of the negotiation process in Chapter 18. Statistics, with a special focus on the final benchmarks	Roadmap in the form of a document	Producers of official statistics	IIQ 2024. - IIIQ 2024.	Roadmap defined. The Statistical Office has defined the activity of preparing the Roadmap for closing Chapter 18. Statistics.	Current funds Regular budget funds, Programme <i>National Statistics</i>	-	Continue implementing activities that contribute to the fulfillment of the final benchmarks of Chapter 18. Statistics.
OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5: Production of relevant, timely, and high-quality official statistics through the use of innovative data sources and technologies.							

Performance Indicator 1. Review of progress in using digital skills for the visualization of official statistics results			Baseline value (2024) Partial progress		Target value (2026) Progress achieved	Target value (2028) Significant progress	
Performance Indicator 2. Promotion of official statistics results			Baseline value (2024) Definition of the Statistical Office's Dissemination and Communication Strategy		Target value (2026) 50% of activities defined in the Statistical Office's Dissemination and Communication Strategy implemented	Target value (2028) 100% of activities defined in the Statistical Office's Dissemination and Communication Strategy implemented	
Activity	Result Indicator	Institution	Deadline	Status of Result Indicator Implementation	Planned/Spent Funds	New Deadline and Justification	Recommendation
5.2.1. Four-year Dissemination and Communication Strategy of the Statistical Office 2025–2028	Strategy in the form of a document	Statistical office	IQ 2024. - IVQ 2024.	Document prepared: Concept for the Development of Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office 2025–2028	Current funds Regular budget funds, Programme <i>National Statistics</i>	IVQ 2025. Due to lack of human resources, the full strategy was not prepared; only a concept was created, which will serve as the basis for the strategy	Prepare a four-year Dissemination and Communication Strategy of the Statistical Office 2026–2029 with a two-year Action Plan for 2026 and 2027 in accordance with the Government of Montenegro Work Programme for 2025

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE NEXT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 1. Further improvement of institutional coordination of official statistics

- Adoption of the Draft Law on the Classification of Activities in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2023/137;
Lead: Statistical Office
Partners: Other producers of official statistics
- Continuous inter-institutional cooperation to define the competencies of the Register of Classification Units
Lead: Statistical Office
Partners: Other producers of official statistics
- Continuation of business cooperation with other producers of official statistics, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Expert Team of the Statistical System;
Lead: Statistical Office
Partners: Other producers of official statistics
- Conducting training to improve the quality of official statistics
Lead: Statistical Office
Partners: Other producers of official statistics

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 2. Strengthening the official statistics system through full implementation of planned human resources and spatial capacities

- Provision of adequate office space to improve and modernize statistical production;
Lead: Statistical Office
Partners: Ministry of Finance
- Implementation of *Staff satisfaction survey* to take measures in employment policy and staff retention;
Lead: Statistical Office
Partners: Ministry of Finance

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE 5. Production of relevant, timely, and high-quality official statistics through the use of innovative data sources and technologies

- Preparation of the Statistical Office's Dissemination and Communication Strategy for 2026–2029 with an Action Plan for 2026–2027;
Lead: Statistical Office
Partners: Other producers of official statistics

Statistical Office

IV Proleterske No 2

81000 Podgorica

Tel: +381 (0)20 241 206

Fax: +381 (0)20 241 270

E-mail: contact@monstat.org

Website: www.monstat.org

No 01-041/25-807/4

Date: 13 March 2025