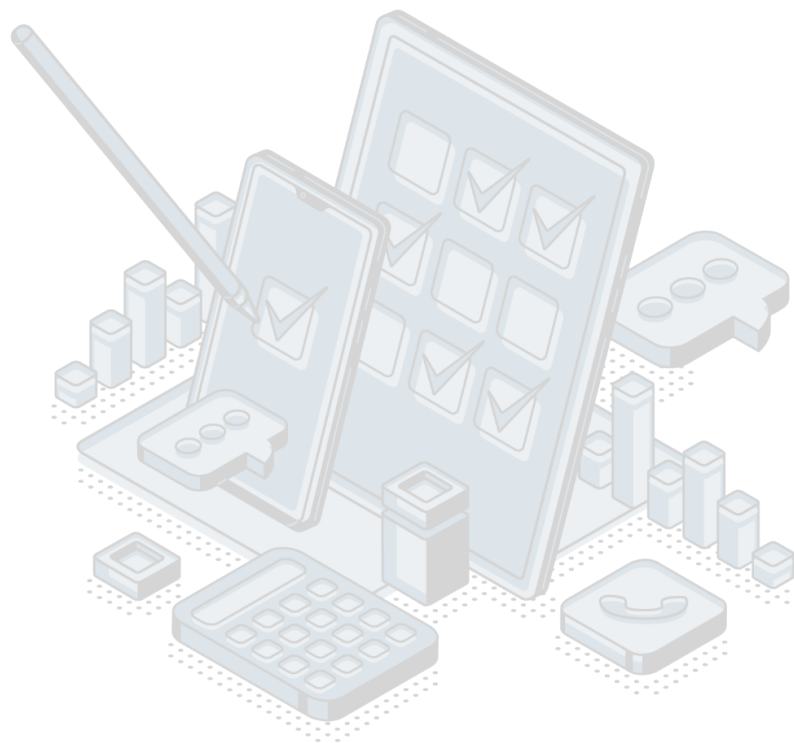


QUALITY REPORT

Social protection in Montenegro - ESSPROS 2023



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1. Introduction – Basic information on survey

1.1 Purpose, goal, and subject of survey

The ESSPROS (The European System of Integrated Social Protection Statistics) is a harmonized system that serves as an instrument for analysis and comparison of financial flows of social protection. The objectives of the ESSPROS are to provide comprehensive and coherent description of the social protection in the EU Member States and candidate states for the membership in the European Union, covering social benefits and their financing, focusing on international comparability and harmonizing with other statistics. The survey provides: statistical indicators of social protection expenditure at the level of the entire system of social protection; share of social protection expenditure in some aggregates (e.g. gross domestic product); information about social protection benefits; method of their financing, etc.

1.2 Legal basis

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No (018/12, 047/19, 023/25) defines provisions for collection, processing, and dissemination of data. The Law provides to the Statistical Office clear and wide legal powers to collect and access the data necessary for the implementation of Program and Annual Plan. The Law gives a priority to the use of administrative data and right of access to individual data that are a result of survey of other official statistical producers. As an annex to legal provisions, Statistical Office has signed several memoranda on cooperation with administrative data providers.

EU regulations defining this area of statistics:

Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 April 2007, on the European system of integrated social protection statistics (ESSPROS).

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1322/2007 of 12 November 2007 concerning the appropriate formats for transmission, results to be transmitted and criteria for measuring quality for the ESSPROS core system and the module on pension beneficiaries.

Commission Regulation (EC) No 10/2008 of 8 January 2008 concerning the definitions, detailed classifications and updating of the rules for dissemination for the ESSPROS core system and the module on pension beneficiaries.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 263/2011 of 17 March 2011 concerning the launch of full data collection for the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits.

Commission Regulation (EU) No 110/2011 of 8 February 2011 concerning the appropriate formats for the transmission of data, the results to be transmitted and the criteria for measuring quality for the ESSPROS module on net social protection benefits.

1.3 Statistical units

Observation unit is a social protection scheme. A social protection scheme is a distinct body of rules, supported by one or more institutional units, governing the provision of social protection benefits and their financing. Social protection schemes should at all times meet the condition that it must be possible to produce a separate account of receipts and expenditures and, preferably, are chosen in such a way that they provide the protection against a single risk or need and cover a single specific group of beneficiaries. According to the ESSPROS methodology at the level of Montenegro, twenty social protection schemes have been defined:

- Compulsory pension and disability insurance scheme,
- Compulsory health insurance scheme,
- Employment and unemployment insurance scheme,

- Ensuring rights in case of bankruptcy or technological surplus,
- Professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disabilities,
- Basic material benefits within social welfare,
- Basic material benefits within child welfare,
- Social and child protection services,
- Scheme of veteran and disabled protection (the rights of war veterans, deceased war veterans, war invalids civil war invalids and members of their families),
- Scheme of individual farmers,
- Employers' scheme (paid-sick),
- Privileges of disabled persons in internal passengers' transport,
- Social assistance at local level – Podgorica,
- Social assistance at local level - other municipalities,
- Subvention for electricity,
- Social assistance to persons granted refugee status and seeking asylum,
- Social protection of employers excluding paid-sick leave,
- Compulsory pension and disability insurance scheme (special rights) - special groups of civil servants,
- Compulsory pension and disability insurance scheme (special rights) - workers in coal mines,
- Compulsory pension and disability insurance scheme (special rights) - parent or guardian of a child with a severe disability.

1.4 Coverage and scope of survey

1.4.1 Sectors

Not relevant.

1.4.2 Statistical population

Households and individuals who provided social protection through appropriate Social protection scheme.

1.5 Reference geographical area

Montenegro.

1.6 Concepts and definitions

Social protection comprises all interventions from public or private bodies intended to relieve households and individuals of the financial burden of a defined set of risks or needs, provided that there is neither a simultaneous reciprocal, nor an individual arrangement involved (intervention where the recipient of social protection is obliged to provide simultaneously something of equivalent value in exchange). In core system, social benefits are classified according to function and type. The function of social benefit refers to the primary purpose for which social protection is provided, irrespective of legislative or institutional provisions. Risks or needs in the ESSPROS are expressed in this methodology as function, so the social protection schemes are listed below:

Sickness/Healthcare - implies income maintenance and support in cash in connection with physical or mental illness, excluding disability. Health care is intended to maintain restore or improve the health of the people protected irrespective of origin of the disorder.

Disability - implies support in cash or kind (except health care) in connection with the inability of physically or mentally disabled people to engage in economic and social activities.

Old age - implies income maintenance and support in cash or kind (except health care) in connection with old age.

Survivors - implies income maintenance and support in cash or kind in connection with the death of a family member.

Family/Children - implies support in cash or kind (except healthcare) in connection with the costs of pregnancy, childbirth and adoption, bringing up children and caring for other family members.

Unemployment - implies income maintenance and support in cash or kind in connection with unemployment.

Social exclusion not elsewhere classified - implies benefits in cash or kind (except healthcare) specifically intended to combat social exclusion where they are not covered by one of the other functions. The type of social benefit refers to the form in which protection is provided.

Expenditures for social protection are classified according to type, indicating nature of, or reason for the expenditure, including social protection benefits, administrative costs and other expenditures. Social benefits consist of transfers, in cash or in kind, by social protection schemes to households and individuals to relieve them of the burden of a defined set of risks or needs. Social benefits are divided into benefits with regard to whether they are means-tested or not. By type of social benefits can be regard to cash or in kind. Social benefits in cash relate to cash payments, while social benefits in kind relate to reimbursements and directly provided goods and services. Administration costs means the costs charged to the scheme for management and administration thereof. It covers the costs of registering users, collecting contributions, administering fees, inspecting, reinsurance, financial management, general overheads, etc. Other expenditure means miscellaneous expenditure by social protection schemes.

1.7 Classifications

Regulation (EC) No 10/2008 of the 8th January 2008 for the implementation of the Regulation (EC) No 458/2007 of the European Parliament and the Council regarding ESSPROS lays down the main concepts and classifications that are used in ESSPROS. Detailed definitions and classifications can be found in the "ESSPROS Manual and user guidelines, at the following link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-manuals-and-guidelines/-/ks-gq-22-013>

1.8 Frequency of data collection

Data are collected on annual level.

1.9 Dynamics of data collection

Data are published on annual level for the reference period (n-2) according to Statistical Release Calendar.

1.10 Methodology

Methodology of Social protection in Montenegro are available on website of MONSTAT, at the following link: <https://www.monstat.org/uploads/files/espross/2020/Metodolosko%20uputstvo-ESSPROS%20-%20eng.pdf>

1.11 Base period

Not relevant.

1.12 Unit of measure

The data obtained by this survey are expressed in euros and in percentages.

1.13 Data source

The data sources are administrative data collected by reporting units, i.e. annual financial reports on work of reporting units. Reporting units are services dealing with finances of administrative data sources which have jurisdiction over the observation unit. The data are collected at the annual level. Reporting units for ESSPROS are:

1. Ministry of Social Welfare, Family care and Demography of Montenegro,
2. Pension and Disability Insurance Fund of Montenegro,
3. Health Insurance Fund of Montenegro,
4. Employment Agency of Montenegro,
5. Tax Administration of Montenegro,
6. Labour Fund of Montenegro,
7. Local self-governments,
8. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.

1.14 Method of data collection

Data are collected through the filling in of questionnaires which are sent to reporting units by post or electronically, while the other data derived from the annual work report.

2. Relevance – data users

2.1 User needs

International users:

- Eurostat;
- World Bank;
- UN organizations;
- International Monetary Fund.

National users:

- Ministries and other public administration bodies;
- Local government and other local government bodies;
- Central bank;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Students;
- Researchers;
- Media.

2.2 User satisfaction

The Statistical Office has adopted the Quality Management Strategy, the Guidebook to the Implementation of the Quality Management Strategy, as well as the Plan for the Implementation of the Quality Policy. In order to measure the degree to which fulfils obligations towards users and within the new quality policy, the Statistical Office conducted User satisfaction survey. Data collection was carried out through a web survey, in the period from 1 September to 20 October, 2017.

The results of the survey are available on the Statistical Office website, at the following link:

<https://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1502&pageid=1502>

3. Accuracy and reliability

3.1 Accuracy – overall

Overall accuracy of the survey is considered satisfactory, because the main data sources are administrative data collected by the reporting units or annual finance reports.

3.1.1 Item non-response rate

Not available.

3.2 Processing error

Not relevant.

Imputation rate

Not relevant.

3.3 Data revision

3.3.1 Data revision policy

The data collected within ESSPROS survey may be subject to revision, due to discovering new data sources, improvements in usage of existing data sources, as well as a result of further harmonization with the ESSPROS methodology.

Statistical Office has adopted the revision policy and it is available on the website, at the following link: <http://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1411&pageid=1411>

3.3.2 Data revision practice

Not available.

3.3.3 Data revision - average size

Not available.

4. Timeliness and punctuality

4.1 Timeliness

Timeliness of final results: T + 31 months after the end of the reference period. The data are published according to Calendar of publishing Statistical Releases.

Time lag of preliminary results

Timeliness of preliminary results: T + 19 months after the end of the reference period.

Time lag of final data

Timeliness of final results: T + 31 months after the end of the reference period.

4.2 Punctuality

The TP3 (punctuality) indicator is 0, there is no difference between the planned and the actual release, which means that the data was published in accordance with the Calendar of publishing Statistical Releases.

Deadlines for publishing the results of this survey are defined in the Calendar of publishing Statistical Releases .and these deadlines for publication of the Releases are respected.

5. Availability and clarity

5.1 Statistical Release Calendar

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 018/12, 047/19, 023/25) stipulates that official statistical producers prepare, update, and publish Statistical Release Calendar. It is published on the website of Statistical Office not later than 20 December for the next year, for all official statistical producers that includes date of releasing statistical data. Any change in date of releasing in the Calendar is published in advance in accordance with the Procedure on Unplanned Revisions.

5.2 Access to Statistical Release Calendar

Statistical Release Calendar is available at the following link:

<https://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1179&pageid=12>

5.3 Releases

The data are available in the form of annual press releases published on the official website, at the following link: <https://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1675&pageid=79>

5.4 Publications

Statistical Office publishes the following regular publications: 1. Statistical Yearbook, 2. Montenegro in figures, 3. Monthly statistical review. In addition to the above regular ones, Statistical Office publishes also additionally publications. Some of the most important additional publications are as it follows: 1. Women and Men in Montenegro, 2. The most often used statistical data All publication published by Statistical Office are available at the following link: <https://www.monstat.org/eng/publikacije.php>

5.5 Online database

On MONSTAT website, the Social protection section contains data in excel tables, annual release and Methodology, at the following link: <https://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1563&pageid=1563>

5.6 Access to microdata

The Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 018/12, 047/19, 023/25) regulates rules under which external users can obtain an access to individual data for needs of research. Article 58 defines types of scientific and research organizations that can obtain such data. Providing individual data without identifier is possible only upon a written request of scientific and research institutions, with purpose of performing scientific and research activities as well as international statistical organizations and statistical producers from other countries. Research entity signs the agreement with Statistical Office, and it signs the statement on respecting the confidentiality principle. Official statistical producers keep a separate record on users and purpose of using the statistical data given to these users.

5.7 Metadata occupancy

Not available.

6. Comparability

6.1 Spatial comparability

Data collection on social protection is fully compliant with methodological recommendations and standards specified in the legal regulations of Eurostat (European Statistical Office), thus providing an international data comparability. Definitions and recommendations which have been used are covered by the following regulations: (The European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 458/2007, Commission Regulation (EC) No 1322/2007, Commission Regulation (EC) No 10/2008, Commission Regulation (EC) No 263/2011, Commission Regulation (EC) No 110/2011 and ESSPROS Manual and guidelines (European system of integrated social protection statistics ESSPROS - 2022 edition, Compendium of methodological clarifications ESSPROS – 2022 edition).

6.2 Time comparability

Annual data from 2016 to 2023 are available on the MONSTAT website, link:

<https://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=1675&pageid=79>

Time comparability indicator

Not relevant.