

METHODOLOGY
Higher education

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HIGHER EDUCATION

The legal basis

The legal basis for the implementation statistical surveys in the area of higher education statistics is the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System of Montenegro (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 018/12, 047/19, 023/25) and Annual plan of statistical surveys.

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES

Purpose of survey

The purpose of statistical survey is the production of statistical data in the field of higher education, with the aim of providing information on enrolled and graduated students at all levels of study, as well as on academic and professional staff by basic characteristics.

Sources of data

All higher education institutions in the territory of Montenegro that have a license and accreditation for their classes, regardless of their status.

Coverage of survey

The statistical survey on students enrolled in basic studies includes all institutions of higher education in the territory of Montenegro that organize and carry out study programs of basic studies, for which they are accredited. The statistical survey on students enrolled in basic studies includes all students enrolled in the winter semester of the current academic year.

The statistical survey on academic and professional staff and the structure of higher education institutions includes academic and professional staff regardless of the type of employment and the duration of working hours. Data on teaching staff at higher education institutions are collected through a summary report filled out by all institutions of higher education that were founded or teach in Montenegro.

Statistical survey on students enrolled in postgraduate and doctoral studies includes all students enrolled in postgraduate and doctoral studies. Data on students enrolled in postgraduate and doctoral studies are collected through a summary report that is filled out by all higher education institutions that were founded or conduct classes in Montenegro.

The statistical survey on graduated students covers all higher education institutions in the territory of Montenegro that organize and carry out study programs of basic studies, for which they are accredited. The survey covers all students who completed basic studies (academic or applied) in the calendar year.

The statistical survey on specialists and masters covers all higher education institutions in the territory of Montenegro that organize and carry out postgraduate studies, i.e. study programs

that gives the right to obtain degrees after basic studies in the scientific and professional fields for which they are accredited. The survey includes all students who completed postgraduate studies in the calendar year.

The statistical survey on doctors of science covers all higher education institutions in the territory of Montenegro that organize and carry out doctoral studies, that is, the study program for obtaining the academic title of doctor of science in scientific fields, for which they are accredited. The survey included all students who completed their doctoral studies in the calendar year.

Statistical activity covers all higher education institutions, public and private.

Method, time and sources for data collection

Data on students enrolled in basic studies are collected administratively (University of Montenegro) and through individual statistical questionnaires "Application form for student enrollment" (questionnaire SV-20). Questionnaires are filled out by all students upon enrollment in the winter semester of each academic year. Data is collected from higher education institutions that organize and conduct basic studies in the scientific, artistic and professional fields for which they are accredited.

Data on students enrolled in postgraduate and doctoral studies are collected administratively (University of Montenegro) and through the summary report "Questionnaire on enrollment in postgraduate and doctoral studies" (questionnaire SV-23), which is filled out by all higher education institutions that have been established or are teaching in Montenegro.

Data on graduated students are collected administratively (University of Montenegro) and through individual statistical questionnaires "Questionnaire for graduated students" (questionnaire SV-50), which is filled in by students upon completion of their undergraduate studies. The data is collected from institutions of higher education that organize and carry out basic studies in the scientific, artistic and professional fields for which they are accredited.

Data on students who have completed postgraduate studies are collected administratively (University of Montenegro) and through individual statistical questionnaires "Questionnaire for Masters of Science and specialist" (questionnaire SV-80), which is filled in by students upon obtaining that academic degree or title. Data is collected from higher education institutions that organize and conduct postgraduate studies in the scientific, artistic and professional fields for which they are accredited.

Data on doctors of science are collected administratively (University of Montenegro) and through individual statistical questionnaires "Questionnaire for doctors of science" (questionnaire SV-70), which is filled out by all doctors of science upon obtaining that academic title. The data is collected from institutions of higher education that are accredited for conducting doctoral studies.

Data on academic staff are collected through a summary report, "Questionnaire on academic, professional staff and structure of higher education institutions" (form SV-21), which is filled out by all higher education institutions that were founded or are teaching in Montenegro.

The surveys are conducted annually. Data on enrolled students refer to the academic year, while data on completed studies, i.e. degrees obtained, refer to the calendar year.

Data confidentiality

The obtained data are used exclusively for statistical purposes. Data are aggregated at certain classification levels and published in summary form. The data obtained from higher education institutions represent the official data secret and cannot be published individually.

Definitions

Higher education is provided by universities and higher education institutions that are licensed and accredited in accordance with the Law on Higher Education. Higher education is acquired in Montenegro at universities and other institutions, which can be established as public and private. The University realizes its activity through: faculties, art academies, institutes and colleges, as organizational units.

The University is an autonomous institution which, in carrying out its activities, unifies educational, scientific and research and artistic work, as part of a unique higher education process. An institution may have university status if it implements at least four different study programs at the undergraduate level, of which at least one study program is implemented as an undergraduate and postgraduate, i.e. integrated study program.

The Faculty is a scientific-teaching higher education institution that develops scientific-research work as the basis of teaching activity.

Faculty of Arts and Academy is a teaching and art institution of higher education that develops artistic creativity, scientific research work and performs teaching in appropriate fields.

The **study program** is a basic unit for the classification of higher education with a defined structure and number of ECTS credits that provides an individual with the learning outcomes necessary to acquire knowledge, skills and competences for the field of work and obtain a higher education diploma defined by the national qualification's framework.

The status of the student is obtained by enrolling in the appropriate study program. A student can have a status of a budget funded or self-financing student.

Study programs for obtaining education levels and higher education diplomas must be aligned with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS European Credit Transfer System).

In order to increase the efficiency of studies and harmonize the system with European trends in higher education based on the principles of the Bologna Declaration and the Lisbon Convention, the 3+1+1+3 study model was introduced in Montenegro in 2003. Since then, there have been three levels of higher education: undergraduate studies, postgraduate studies (specialist and master's) and doctoral studies.

Basic studies in academic study programs for obtaining a diploma of basic academic studies last at least three study years, i.e. at least 180 ECTS credits.

Basic studies in applied study programs for obtaining a diploma in applied basic studies last three study years (180 ECTS credits) grade can make up one class.

Postgraduate specialist studies are organized after the completion of basic studies with a volume of 180 ECTS credits and last one academic year (two semesters), ie the scope of the study program of these studies is 60 ECTS credits.

Postgraduate master's studies (academic and applied) last 1 year (60 ECTS credits) after specialist studies, and two years (120 ECTS credits) after undergraduate studies (totaling 180 ECTS credits). Postgraduate studies together with undergraduate studies have a total of at least 300 ECTS credits.

Doctoral studies last three study years (six semesters), i.e. the scope of the study program of these studies is 180 ECTS credits. Doctoral studies for obtaining the academic title of Doctor of Science are organized after the completion of postgraduate studies for the acquisition of the academic title of Master of Science with a volume of 300 ECTS credits.

According to the Law on Higher Education ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", No. 122/25 of 22.10.2025), the study programs that can be implemented at institutions are: basic, postgraduate and doctoral.

The basic study program has a scope of 180 ECTS or 240 ECTS.

Postgraduate study programs are: specialist, with a scope of 60 ECTS and master, with a scope of 60 ECTS or 120 ECTS.

Undergraduate and postgraduate study programs can be accredited as academic and applied.

Doctoral study programs can be accredited as academic, with a scope of 180 ECTS.

Academic studies train students to acquire and apply knowledge in scientific, artistic and professional fields.

Applied studies equip students for quick involvement in the work process.

Study programs are divided into study years and semesters.

The study year is organized in two semesters: winter and summer.

A diploma is a public document proving that the acquired qualification is the result of a successfully completed higher education program.

Instruments of survey

Instruments for conducting annual higher education survey are questionnaires:

- Application form for student enrollment (SV-20)
- Questionnaire on academic, professional staff and structure of higher education institutions (SV-21),
- Questionnaire on enrollment in postgraduate and doctoral studies (SV-23),
- Questionnaire for graduate students (SV-50),
- Questionnaire for masters of science and specialists (SV-80),
- Questionnaire for doctors of science (SV-70),

Dissemination

Published data are available to users in the release on the higher education (annual periodical), as well as in the statistical publications (Statistical Yearbook, Women and men in Montenegro, Montenegro in Figures).

The data is published in electronic form (on the website of the Statistical office of Montenegro).