

The session was held on 21 November 2024.

After establishing a quorum, the Statistical System Council unanimously adopted the minutes of the previous session, as well as the proposed agenda.

Within the first agenda item, the Assistant Director of the Statistical Office, Ms Branka Šušić Radovanović, presented the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2025, prepared in accordance with Articles 23 and 24 of the Law on Official Statistics and the Official Statistics System ("Official Gazette of Montenegro", Nos. 18/12 and 47/19). The Annual Plan foresees the implementation of 206 statistical surveys, the majority of which will be carried out by the Statistical Office. Following the discussion, the Council unanimously issued a positive opinion on the Annual Plan of Official Statistics for 2025.

Regarding the second agenda item, the Assistant Director of the Statistical Office informed the members of the Council about the findings of the European Commission's 2024 Enlargement Report for Montenegro, in which Negotiating Chapter 18 – Statistics was assessed as having a "moderate level of preparedness". She emphasised that representatives of the Statistical Office had discussed in detail the recommendations set out in the Progress Report during the EUROSTAT technical mission held in the first week of November, as well as during the subsequent visit of the Director-General of EUROSTAT, Ms Mariana Kotzeva.

Within the third agenda item, the Assistant Director of the Statistical Office informed the members of the Council about the findings of the performance audit of the Statistical Office conducted by the State Audit Institution. The Statistical Office submitted two statements with explanations in response to the preliminary audit report, after which the final report of the State Audit Institution was published and made available on its official website.

Regarding the fourth agenda item, the Director of the Statistical Office informed the Council that the Agricultural Census was being implemented in line with the planned schedule, using the CAPI method, and that approximately 90% of agricultural holdings had been enumerated at that time.

Under the item "Other business", a representative of the Central Bank of Montenegro informed the Council about the WE Finance Code initiative and the planned activities related to its implementation. It was highlighted that the Central Bank of Montenegro would act as the project leader, while the Statistical Office, the Ministry of Finance, and the Tax Administration, as producers of official statistics, would also participate in the project.

No: 01-078/25-746/2

Date: 21 February 2025