

MINUTES OF THE SESSION OF THE STATISTICAL SYSTEM COUNCIL

Held on 7 October 2025, at 12:00 p.m., in the Conference Hall of the Statistical Office

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL PRESENT:

Miroslav Pejović,
Ernad Kolić, MSc,
Miloš Mišković,
Ana Ljumović,
Mira Radunović, MSc,
Marko Todorović,
Boris Mugoša,
Željka Vulcanović,
Jelena Đukić,
Biljana Vučetić,
Dr Mirjana Nedović Vuković,
Marina Jovanović, and
Robert Rajković.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL ABSENT:

Branka Šušić Radovanović, MSc,
John M. Barac,
Prof. Dr Božidar Popović, and
Prof. Dr Nevena Mijajlović.

AGENDA:

1. Law on the Classification of Activities;
2. Benchmark revision of national accounts as a prerequisite for the closure of Negotiating Chapter 18 – Statistics;
3. Other business.

The session of the Statistical System Council was chaired by the Vice-President of the Council, the Director of the Statistical Office, Mr Miroslav Pejović, due to the inability of the President of the Council to attend the session.

After establishing a quorum for holding the regular session, the Vice-President of the Council welcomed the new member, the representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Mr Boris Mugoša.

The minutes of the previous session were adopted by a majority vote. The representative of the Union of Employers of Montenegro, Ms Marina Jovanović, abstained from voting.

The proposed agenda was adopted unanimously.

Regarding the first agenda item, Mr Ernad Kolić, Acting Assistant Director of the Sector for Coordination of Statistical Data Sources, informed the members of the Council that the Statistical Office had received information from representatives of the European Commission and the Mission of Montenegro to the European Union regarding the draft Law on the Classification of Activities, which had been submitted for opinion.

The European Commission suggested postponing the adoption of the documents (the draft Law and the draft Regulation) until additional information is obtained and indicated that EUROSTAT would provide guidance on the format in which it wishes to receive the documents and classification tables in order to conduct its assessment. In this regard, the Commission recommended awaiting the official position of EUROSTAT, in order to avoid additional work and potential errors.

With regard to the draft Law on the Classification of Activities, which received a positive opinion from the Council at the session held on 13 June 2025, Mr Kolić informed the members that the text of the draft Law, i.e. the proposal submitted for further procedure, had undergone certain amendments.

Specifically, Article 5 was reformulated—its substance remained unchanged, while the provision was defined more precisely. The title of Article 5 was amended from “Registration of Activities” to “Classification of Activities”. In the first part of the Article, a provision from the draft Regulation on the Classification of Activities (KD 2025) was incorporated, stipulating that the methodology for the classification of classification units shall be determined by the authority competent for statistical affairs, while the classification of classification units by activity shall be carried out by the authority competent for tax affairs. Furthermore, the same Article prescribes that the classification of classification units by activity shall be carried out on the basis of applications submitted by the classification units, and that the authority competent for tax affairs shall issue a decision on the classification of activities within three working days.

In addition, a new Article 7 was introduced into the draft Law, containing transitional provisions, and it is envisaged as an integral part of the Law.

All of the aforementioned amendments were previously harmonised with the Tax Administration, while the legal drafting was provided by the Secretariat for Legislation.

Regarding the second agenda item, the Director of the Statistical Office, Mr Miroslav Pejović, informed the members of the Council that the Statistical Office had conducted a benchmark revision of national accounts statistics for the period 2006–2023.

He emphasised that the revision was carried out earlier than initially planned, in accordance with a decision of the Government of Montenegro, with the aim of accelerating the process of closing

Negotiating Chapter 18 – Statistics within the framework of Montenegro’s accession negotiations with the European Union.

The revision included the use of new data sources, including the 2023 Population, Households and Dwellings Census and the 2024 Agricultural Census, as well as improvements in methodology and statistical classification (COICOP 2018).

He highlighted that the implemented revision further strengthens the credibility of official statistics, ensures their alignment with European standards, and represents an important step towards enhancing Montenegro’s institutional preparedness for membership in the European Union.

Under the agenda item “Other business”, the Director of the Statistical Office, Mr Miroslav Pejović, informed the members of the Council that the implementation of the MICS survey (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey on the situation of children and women) would commence on Friday, 10 October 2025. He noted that this is an internationally recognised data collection programme, implemented in numerous countries worldwide with the support of UNICEF, aimed at providing reliable and comparable data on the status of children’s and women’s rights.

Within this agenda item, the Director also informed the Council that the Statistical Office, as well as other producers of official statistics, would in the forthcoming period undertake preparations for the implementation of the Peer Review mission.

In this context, he proposed that the same representatives of other producers of official statistics who, as members of the Expert Team of the Statistical System of Montenegro, have already commenced certain preparatory activities, be included in the preparation process. Given their previous involvement, their engagement would significantly contribute to the efficiency of the preparations and ensure a higher level of readiness for the forthcoming mission.

In the further course of the session, the Decision on the establishment of the Working Group for the improvement of administrative data sources on tourism turnover and the enhancement of tourism revenues was formally processed and delivered to the members of the Working Group.

At the conclusion of the consideration of this agenda item, a member of the Statistical System Council, the representative of the Ministry of Finance, Mr Miloš Mišković, informed the members of the Council of the details of further actions related to the submitted letter – the Request for professional guidance and instructions regarding the draft Strategy for Dissemination and Communication of the Statistical Office for the period 2026–2029, with the Action Plan for 2026 and 2027, No. 01-041/25-3584/1 of 30 September 2025.

He informed the members of the Council that the usual adoption procedure would not be applied to this strategic document, taking into account the content of the opinion issued by the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro. Instead, it would be necessary to prepare a Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Form together with the draft document, which would then

be submitted to the Government of Montenegro in the form of information for a Government session.

President of the Statistical System Council
Prof. Dr Nevena Mijajlović

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Date: 3 December 2025