

## COOPERATION AGREEMENT

### IN THE FIELD OF STATISTICS OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT SECTOR AND ASSOCIATED STATISTICS

Entered into in Podgorica, by and between:

1. Statistical Office,

Podgorica, IV Proleterske 2, represented by Director, Ms. Gordana Radojevic, MSc (hereinafter referred to as the "Office")

2. CENTRAL BANK OF MONTENEGRO,

Podgorica, Bulevar Svetog Petra Cetinjskog 6, represented by Governor, Mr. Milojica Dakic (hereinafter referred to as the "CBM"), and

3. MINISTRY OF FINANCE,

Podgorica, Stanka Dragojevica 2, represented by Minister Mr. Radoje Zugic, PhD (hereinafter referred to as the "MF")

#### 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

In accordance with the provisions of the Regulation (EU) No 2015/759 (amending Regulation (EC) No 223/2009) of the European Parliament and the Council on European Statistics), Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 18/12), and the Law on Budget and Fiscal Responsibility (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 20/14 and 56/14), by this Agreement on Cooperation in the field of statistics of national accounts of general government sector, and associated statistics (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement"), the Parties to the Agreement express their consent to cooperate in the field of statistics of national accounts of general government sector and associated statistics that are regulated by relevant legislation of the European Union (hereinafter referred to as the "EU") and/or are included in the Programme of Official Statistics 2014-2018 (Official Gazette of Montenegro No 13/14 and 71/15) - (hereinafter referred to as the "Programme of Official Statistics), and the Annual Plan of Official Statistics on the basis of the Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics.

The concept of the general government in terms of this Agreement implies the definition of the general government according to the ESA methodology 2010.

By signing the Agreement, the Parties undertake to establish an efficient statistical system in the field of statistics of national accounts of general government sector and associated statistics, which will be fully aligned with the European legislation, based on the European Statistics Code of Practice,<sup>1</sup> as well as cost-efficient.

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<sup>1</sup> Engl. European Statistics Code of Practice, 2005, 2011

## **2. THE PURPOSE OF THE AGREEMENT**

The purpose of the Agreement is:

1. To determine, in accordance with applicable regulations, the authority and responsibility of each contracting party in a particular area of official statistics on the level of the state of Montenegro, bearing in mind the notification requirements of the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "EC"), European Central Bank (hereinafter referred to as the "ECB"), and the International Monetary Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "IMF");
2. To determine, in accordance with applicable regulations, the responsibilities and obligations in collecting and exchanging information between the contracting parties with the aim of producing official statistics;
3. To ensure the application of the principle of confidentiality for individual data, which are mutually exchanged between contracting parties to meet the obligations assumed under the Agreement;
4. To ensure the application of the principle of professional independence in the data production;
5. To determine the modalities of cooperation, decision making, and monitoring of the implementation of the Agreement.

The distribution of responsibilities and obligations of cooperation in the implementation of individual EU legal acts stems from the above mentioned laws, and is elaborated in the Annex to the Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Annex"). Annex forms an integral part of the Agreement and shall be updated by agreement on the basis of any changes to relevant acts adopted by the European institutions or in other cases, when contracting parties deem necessary so.

The responsibilities of the Contracting Parties regarding individual activities shall be determined in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on the cooperation between the Members of the European Statistical System (ESS), and the Members of the European System of Central Banks (ESCB), which defines the division of responsibilities for all macroeconomic statistics between the ESS and the ESCB.

Also, the Contracting Parties shall respect the principles of official statistics in accordance with the Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics (Article 6), the principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice and Code of Best Practice on the compilation and reporting of data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure<sup>2</sup> (hereinafter referred to as the "Code of Best Practice").

## **3. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE PARTIES**

Under the Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics (Articles 8, 9, and 10), the Programme of Official Statistics, and the distribution of competences/responsibilities defined by negotiating chapter 18 - Statistics, this Agreement shall further elaborate competences/responsibilities in connection with the statistics of national accounts of general government, by sectors and individual statistics.

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<sup>2</sup> Engl. Code of best practice on the compilation and reporting of data in the context of the excessive deficit procedure, 2003

By Montenegrin accession to the EU, and changes in Montenegrin legislation, the responsibilities and competences of the Parties may also change.

### **3.1. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THE PARTIES BY AREAS**

The distribution of responsibilities in connection with the statistics of national accounts of the general government sector and associated statistics has been defined for the following areas:

- 3.1.1. Methodology;
- 3.1.2. Classification of institutional units by sectors according to ESA 2010;
- 3.1.3. Quality of data;
- 3.1.4. Publication and dissemination of data.

#### *3.1.1. Methodology*

The Parties agreed to the use of the methodology of the European system of national and regional accounts (hereinafter referred to as the “ESA 2010”) in the development of statistics of national accounts of general government sector, as well as all accompanying secondary legislation and regulations linked to the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013, and to prepare description of methods, procedures, and sources used in the compilation of the data subject to the Agreement<sup>3</sup> for the part of the statistics for which they are responsible.

#### *3.1.2. Classification of institutional units by sectors according to ESA 2010;*

The Office shall coordinate the preparation of classification by sector, i.e. classification of institutional units by institutional sectors according to the ESA 2010.

The register comprising a list of institutional units by sectors in accordance with the ESA 2010 shall be maintained by the Office, whereas the CBM and the MF shall have an advisory role. The advisory role of the CBM refers to the defining of institutional units belonging to the financial sector, the advisory role of the MF relates to the defining of institutional units belonging to the general government sector, while the Office shall define institutional units belonging to non-financial sector, and the sector of non-profit institutions serving households.

If there is no general consensus on the classification of some of the sectors, the Office, as a coordinator of the statistical system, shall send an official request to EUROSTAT to provide a relevant opinion. Classification by sector shall be carried out according to this opinion, of which the Office shall inform the other parties of the Agreement.

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<sup>3</sup> GNI Inventory and EDP Inventory

### 3.1.3. *Quality of data*

The Parties agree that the quality of statistics of national accounts of general government sector shall be based on the 15 principles of the European Statistics Code of Practice. In this regard, the Parties agree that the Office shall be independent in carrying out international guidelines on national accounts and in charge of the introduction, implementation, and methodological interpretation of ESA 2010, and associated legal acts and methodological manuals.

The Parties agree to the application of the confidentiality provisions of the European Statistics Code of Practice, Regulation (EU) No 2015/759, and the Law on Official Statistics, and System of Official Statistics on individual data of statistical units, if they can be linked to the statistical units (confidential data), providing their use solely for statistical purposes. The Parties should ensure all the prerequisites for the respect of the principle of statistical confidentiality in the compilation and transmission of data, and ensure the protection of the integrity of statistical databases. The provisions of the Agreement do not affect in any way the availability of data, confidentiality or secrecy of which is prescribed by the provisions of other special laws and regulations.

To reduce data inconsistencies, the Parties shall observe the provisions of common principles in the field of audit policy in the domain of data revision as well as the principles of data quality management.

### 3.1.4. *Publication and dissemination of data*

The Parties shall regularly compile and publish data from their domain of competence defined by the Agreement. The calendar of the publishing of the data of the Office shall define the deadlines for the publication of statistics on national accounts of general government sector at the national level.

The Parties agree to adjust the Calendar of the publishing of national data to the ESS Calendar, and deadlines for the publication of data which are defined in Annex B of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013.

In addition to dissemination at national level, the Parties shall be responsible for the timely transmission of data to: Eurostat, IMF and ECB, in a prescribed manner and within the deadlines prescribed.

The Office, as a coordinator of the statistical system of Montenegro, shall provide to EUROSTAT and the IMF, on behalf of the Parties, adequate data subject to this Agreement, through general and/or special data dissemination system (GDDS/SDDS). Upon the completion of the validation process by EUROSTAT and the IMF, the Office shall submit data to the other parties.

The CBM shall submit to the ECB the relevant information from its jurisdiction subject to the Agreement.

The Parties undertake to cooperate and participate in meetings with authorized representatives of the European Commission, EUROSTAT and the ECB, during the negotiation process and the technical missions of these institutions and the IMF.

### **3.2. DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONSIBILITIES BY INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

The distribution of responsibilities between Parties shall be defined for the following individual statistics:

- 3.2.1. Statistics of annual non-financial accounts of the general government sector according to ESA 2010;
- 3.2.2. Statistics of annual financial accounts of the general government sector in line with ESA 2010;
- 3.2.3. Statistics of quarterly non-financial accounts of the general government sector in accordance with ESA 2010;
- 3.2.4. Statistics of quarterly financial accounts for the general government sector according to ESA 2010;
- 3.2.5. Statistics of quarterly financial accounts for the ECB;
- 3.2.6. Reporting as required by the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP);
- 3.2.7. Government Finance Statistics for the ECB;
- 3.2.8. Quarterly reporting on the debt revenues according to the Maastricht Criteria in accordance with ESA 2010;
- 3.2.9. Detailed information on receipts from taxes and social contributions by sector in accordance with ESA 2010;
- 3.2.10. Expenditures of general government sector by functional classification in accordance with ESA 2010;
- 3.2.11. Government Finance Statistics (GFS) for the IMF;
- 3.2.12. Report on value added tax-based (VAT) own resources;
- 3.2.13. Data according to the Council Directive (EC) No 2011/85 on requirements for budgetary frameworks of the Member States.

The Office shall be responsible for the following individual statistics: the statistics of annual non-financial accounts, and quarterly non-financial accounts of the general government sector according to ESA 2010.

The CBM shall be responsible for the following individual statistics: the annual statistics of financial accounts and quarterly statistics of financial accounts of the general government sector according to ESA 2010, statistics of quarterly financial accounts for the ECB, and Government Finance Statistics for the ECB.

The MF shall be responsible for the following individual statistics: Quarterly reporting on the debt revenues according to the Maastricht Criteria in accordance with ESA 2010; reporting in the case of excessive deficit procedure (EDP); detailed information on receipts from taxes and social contributions by sector according to the ESA 2010; expenditures of the general government sector by functional classification in accordance with the ESA 2010; Government Finance Statistics (GFS) for the IMF; Report on VAT-based own resources, and for the data according to the Council Directive (EC) No 2011/85 on the requirements for budgetary frameworks of the Member States.

The MF, in cooperation with the Office and the CBM, shall update the associated tables between categories of economic classification according to the national budget plan, and categories of ESA methodology.

#### **3.2.1. Statistics of annual non-financial accounts in accordance with the ESA 2010**

Annual statistics of *non-financial accounts for general government sector* shall be prepared by the Office in accordance with the Programme of Official Statistics, and negotiating Chapter 18 - Statistics.

The Office shall be independent and responsible for the introduction, implementation, and methodological interpretation of the ESA methodology and all its associated legal acts and methodological manuals in the implementation of international guidelines within the production of non-financial accounts of general government sector. The Office shall be responsible for the preparation of the production account and the distribution, and use of income accounts of the general government sector.

The Office shall prepare the statistics of annual non-financial accounts in accordance with the data transmission program in accordance with ESA 2010 and on the basis of Regulation (EU) No 549/2013. The Office shall publish statistics of annual non-financial accounts and shall submit it to the EUROSTAT.

For the preparation of the annual non-financial accounts of the general government sector, in accordance with the ESA 2010, the MF shall provide to the Office all the necessary data for the general government sector and sub-sectors corresponding to annual level. The CBM shall provide to the Office the necessary data from its competence for the calculation of key aggregates of the national accounts.

### **3.2.2. Statistics of annual financial accounts in accordance with the ESA 2010**

The CBM shall be independent, and shall be responsible for the preparation of annual financial accounts of general government sector in line with the ESA 2010, on the basis of the obligations defined in the Programme of Official Statistics, and the obligations of the negotiating Chapter 18 - Statistics.

The CBM shall prepare the statistics of annual financial accounts in accordance with the data transmission program under ESA 2010 and Regulation (EU) No 549/2013. The CBM shall publish the statistics on annual financial accounts and submit the completed tables in a form prescribed by the EUROSTAT to the Office, which shall further forward them to the EUROSTAT.

The CBM shall prepare the balance sheet for financial assets and liabilities of the financial sector and the general government sector in accordance with the data transmission program ESA 2010 and Regulation (EU) No 549/2013.

For the preparation of the annual financial accounts of the general government sector, the MF shall provide to the CBM all the necessary data for the general government sector, and related sub-sectors on an annual basis, in the form prescribed by the CBM. The Office shall provide to the CBM all available statistical data for the non-financial sector, the household sector and non-profit institutions serving households on an annual basis, in the form prescribed by the CBM.

### **3.2.3. Statistics of quarterly non-financial accounts in accordance with ESA 2010**

The Office shall be responsible for the preparation of quarterly non-financial accounts for general government sector in compliance with the EU regulations, and for the dissemination and transmission of data to EUROSTAT in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 1221/2002.

For the preparation of quarterly non-financial accounts for the general government sector, the MF shall provide to the Office all the necessary information for the general government sector and related sub-sectors.

### **3.2.4. Statistics of quarterly financial accounts in accordance with the ESA 2010**

The CBM shall be responsible for the preparation of quarterly financial accounts for the general government sector in line with the EU regulations and data dissemination in accordance with the Regulation No 501/2004. The CBM shall submit completed tables to the Office, which shall forward them to EUROSTAT.

For the preparation of quarterly financial accounts of the general government sector, the MF shall provide to the CBM all the necessary data for the central government, local governments and social protection funds, in the form prescribed by the CBM.

### **3.2.5. Statistics of quarterly financial accounts for ECB**

CBM shall be responsible for the preparation of quarterly financial accounts in accordance with the ECB Guidelines ECB/2013/24 and ECB/2015/40.

The MF shall provide to the CBM all the necessary data pertaining to the general government sector and related sub-sectors, in the form prescribed by the CBM. The Office shall provide to the CBM all available statistical data for the non-financial sector, household sector and non-profit institutions serving households, in the form prescribed by the CBM.

### **3.2.6. Reporting as required by the Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP);**

According to the Law on Official Statistics and System of Official Statistics and the negotiating Chapter 18 - Statistics, the Ministry of Finance shall be in charge of finance - maintain statistics on fiscal expenditures and non-fiscal revenues, and shall be responsible for the implementation of the ESA 2010 in public finances, as well as the development of excessive deficit procedures i.e. fiscal notification- EDP table<sup>4</sup>.

The MF shall be responsible for the preparation of Report of Government Deficit and Debt (hereinafter in this clause referred to as the "Report"), the Questionnaire associated with the reporting tables, and all other prescribed documents making an integral part of the Report, in accordance with the Regulation (EC) No 479/2009, and accompanying amendments (Regulation (EC) No 679/2010, and Regulation (EU) No 220/2014).

In order to ensure a full compliance with the mentioned Regulation (EC) No 479/2009, until the accession to the EU, EUROSTAT shall deliver to the Office, as the coordinator of the statistical system, the prescribed EDP tables, questionnaires, instructions, and other relevant documents which Montenegro should submit to EUROSTAT. The Office shall forward the submitted documents to the MF to fill them out, according to the requests of EUROSTAT, regarding implementation, production and dissemination of data on government deficit and debt.

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<sup>4</sup> Law on Official Statistics and the Official Statistical System and negotiating Chapter 18: Statistics defined that the MF is competent and responsible for the development of excessive deficit procedures i.e. fiscal notification - EDP tables until the accession of Montenegro to the European Union

The mentioned Regulation (EC) No 479/2009 requires the reporting of EDP-related data twice per year: until 1 April (first notification - April reporting) and up to 1 October (second notification - the October reporting).

The MF should fill EDP tables as follows: *EDP1* - a summary view showing the net lending/net borrowing for general government sector and its sub-sectors, the general government debt by instrument, interest payable by general government gross fixed capital formations of general government, as well as the gross national product of the reference year; *EDP2* - provides the link between the working balances and the net lending/net borrowing in accordance with the ESA 2010 (2A, 2B, 2C and 2D); *EDP3* – makes the link between net lending/net borrowing (ESA 2010 deficit) and the change in government debt (3A, 3B, 3C, 3D and 3E); *EDP4* – shows supplementary information, the stock in trade credit payable by the government and the like.

The MF shall also fill out, within the Report, the Questionnaire attached to the EDP notification tables defined by Regulation (EC) No 479/2009.

Taking into account that the data presented in the Report must comply with the general government accounts in accordance with ESA 2010, the MF may initiate consultations at the national level with the Office and CBM to solve methodological issues - in accordance with the Code of Best Practice. In the event that the issues cannot be solved this way, the Office, as a coordinator, shall submit the official request to EUROSTAT for the relevant opinion.

The CBM shall deliver to the MF all the necessary information from its jurisdiction, which are essential for the MF to compile individual positions in the Report, as well as to fill out the additional periodic reports required by EUROSTAT.

The Office shall submit to the MF all the necessary information from its jurisdiction to create individual positions in the Report and for the purposes of filling the additional periodic reports required by EUROSTAT.

The MF shall be responsible for forecasts in the Report, according to Excessive Deficit Procedure (EDP).

The Office and the CBM shall have an obligation to provide available data to the MF for the development of the Report no later than 15 March (for the April reporting) and August 31 of each year (for the October reporting). The process of final harmonization of data between the Parties shall end no later than two working days before the transmission to EUROSTAT.

Final and completed documents by the Ministry of Finance shall be submitted to the Office in electronic form, as well as on a CD (by letter) which the Office shall further transmit to EUROSTAT while respecting deadlines defined for the submission of the tables.

The MF shall be responsible for the preparation of a standardized document, in the form prescribed by EUROSTAT, the so-called EDP Inventory, describing the methods, procedures and sources used in the compilation of data on debt and deficit of the general government sector according to the ESA 2010 and the Regulation (EC) No 479/2009.



### **3.2.7. Government Finance Statistics for the ECB;**

The CBM shall be responsible for the preparation and submission of government finance statistics for the ECB in accordance with the Guidelines ECB/2013/23 and ECB/2014/21.

The Office shall provide to the CBM all available data in its competence. The MF shall provide to the CBM all available data, distributions, and explanations necessary for the timely dissemination of government finance statistics to the ECB.

The CBM and the MF shall be responsible for compiling government finance statistics for the ECB in accordance with the official methodology applied in the EU statistical practice (the Guidelines ECB/2013/23 and ECB/2014/21).

The MF shall prepare the final report on the government finance statistics, and submit it to the CBM, which shall forward it to the ECB.

### **3.2.8. Quarterly reporting on the debt revenues according to the Maastricht Criteria in accordance with the ESA 2010**

The MF shall be responsible for the compilation of statistics on quarterly government debt according to the Maastricht Criteria in accordance with the EU regulations and the Regulation No 1222/2004. The MF shall publish data and transmit filled tables to the Office, which shall forward them to the EUROSTAT.

The Office and the CBM shall provide and deliver to the MF all available data from their competences for the development of indicators of debt according to the Maastricht Criteria.

### **3.2.9. Detailed information on receipts from taxes and social contributions by sector in accordance with ESA 2010**

The MF shall be responsible for the preparation of detailed data on receipts from taxes and social contributions by sector, including the National Tax List and the Questionnaire on taxes and social contributions, in accordance with the ESA, 2010.

The MF shall submit the prepared data, National Tax List and the Questionnaire on taxes and social contributions to the Office, which shall forward them to the EUROSTAT.

### **3.2.10. Expenditures of general government sector by functional classification in accordance with the ESA 2010**

The MF shall be responsible for the preparation of general government expenditures by the Classification of the Functions of Government (COFOG) in accordance with the ESA 2010 on annual and quarterly basis, in accordance with the Programme of Official Statistics, and the strategy of the implementation of ESA 2010 methodology in the statistics of public finances of Montenegro.

### **3.2.11. Government Finance Statistics (GFS) for the IMF**

The MF shall be responsible for the compilation of government finance statistics in accordance with the methodology of the applicable Government Finance Statistics Manuals and Guides of the IMF, their publication on the website of the MF and the transmission of data to the IMF.

### **3.2.12. Report on value added tax (VAT) - based own resources;**

The MF shall be responsible for the preparation of the Report on VAT-based own resources (hereinafter referred to in this clause as the “Report”) in accordance with the EU standards for the monitoring of VAT-based own resources, on the basis of the competences from the negotiating Chapter 33- Financial and budgetary provisions. The production of the Report is aimed to determine the amount of VAT-based resources which Montenegro will pay to the common EU budget after the accession to the EU.

The MF shall be responsible for the calculation of the total net income from VAT which is collected by Montenegro, for the calculation of total adjusted net income from VAT, for the calculation of the harmonized tax base, based on the rules defined by the Council Directive No 2006/112/EC on the common system of VAT and Council Regulation No 1553/89 on the definitive uniform arrangements for the collection of own resources accruing from VAT, as well as for reporting to the EC.

If the MF does not dispose of all the necessary data for the preparation of the Report, it shall take the measures to secure the data in cooperation with other institutions of the system or use other available administrative data sources.

The Office shall be responsible, for the purposes of the Report, to carry out the calculation of gross national income (GNI) and the calculation of the weighted average VAT rate (WAR) based on data from supply and use tables, for whose creation the MF should provide information on grants by type of beneficiary and purpose of subsidies, and the CBM should provide information on services in accordance with the classification of products (CPA classification).

### **3.2.13. Data according to the Council Directive (EC) No 2011/85 on requirements for budgetary frameworks of the Member States**

The MF shall be responsible for the compilation, publication, and dissemination of monthly and quarterly data on total indicators of surplus/deficit, total revenues and expenditures, as well as corresponding metadata and related tables in accordance with the Council Directive EU No 2011/85 on the requirements for budgetary frameworks of the Member States in accordance with the scope and deadlines set forth by the EUROSTAT and the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission (DG ECFIN).

If the MF does not possess all the necessary data to meet reporting obligations under the EU Council Directive No 2011/85, it shall take measures to provide data in cooperation with other institutions of the

system or use other available administrative data sources. The MF can consider a possibility of modification of existing reporting forms and the budget frameworks and non-profit accounting, and implement additional collection of the necessary data from the reporting units.

The decision on the jurisdiction for the compilation, publication, and dissemination of statistical data according to the requirements of the EU Council Directive No 2011/85 shall be issued by the Committee for the implementation of the ESA 2010 (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”).

#### **4. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND EXCHANGE OF DATA FOR PREPARATION OF INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**

Data sources and exchange of information for the preparation of individual statistics are defined in the Annex.

If the defined data sources are to be changed after the signing of the Agreement, the Parties shall be obliged to promptly notify other Parties of any changes:

- In the preparation of new or changes to existing regulations and methodology, as well as other relevant activities,
- On the impact of methodological changes on the time series of the observed phenomena, the quality of official statistics, as well as on the data structure and timeliness of its dissemination, and
- On planned audits, with an explanation of the audit and its impact on the time series of observed phenomena.

Input and output data between the Parties shall be submitted in electronic format (Excel tables, Access base or other format suitable for electronic data processing), and if necessary, through the official letters.

The Parties shall also cooperate in the field of access to primary data providers (reporting units of the general government sector), where the MF shall provide the Office and the CBM with additional information in the event of possible additional needs or data verification, as the MF in practice has greater powers over these entities at the state or local level and at the level of social security funds.

The Parties undertake to continuously improve sources (in terms of structure, format, and timing of delivery) and quality of data from their jurisdictions, in order to fulfill all obligations under this Agreement.

#### **5. COORDINATION AND COOPERATION**

##### **5.1. The coordination of the implementation of the Agreement and other activities related to the ESA 2010**

The Parties shall establish the Committee, whose main tasks shall be:

- Managing and monitoring the implementation of the Agreement, as well as amendments to the Agreement;

- Introducing the Parties with the establishment and abolition of the working groups that each Party alone can establish for the implementation of individual activities within its jurisdiction pertaining to the implementation of the ESA 2010 (national accounts statistics of the total economy, non-financial sector, financial sector, household sector and the sector abroad);
- Discussing the issue of classification of institutional units with special emphasis on the institutional units of general government sector;
- Professional harmonization relating to the development of official statistics in order to implement the ESA 2010
- Resolving other open issues concerning the implementation of the ESA 2010
- Analyzing being up-to-date and availability of the Annex to the Agreement, at least once a year and initiating changes to the Agreement in accordance with the amendments to the regulations in the area of individual statistics issued by the EC, ECB, and EUROSTAT, in terms of amendments to the deadlines for the transmission of data
- Performing other tasks in connection with the Agreement.

## **5.2. Committee members**

The Committee shall consist of three regular members: Director of Financial Stability, Research and Statistics in the CBM, Director of the Directorate for Economic Policy and Development in the Ministry of Finance and Assistant Director of the Sector for Macroeconomic Statistics and National Accounts of the Office, who is also the Chairman of the Board. Each Party shall appoint a Deputy as a regular member of the Committee. Deputy of the regular member of the Committee shall attend the meetings of the Committee, and in case of inability of the regular member of the Committee to attend the meetings, the Deputy shall have the same rights, duties, and obligations as a regular member of the Committee.

Administrative and technical services for the Committee shall be performed by the Office (which also appoints a Secretary, who shall have no right of vote at meetings). The work of the Committee shall be regulated by special Rules of Procedure.

## **5.3. Method of decision-making**

The decisions at the meetings of the Committee shall be reached by consensus. If it is not possible to achieve the consensus in decision-making, EUROSTAT's opinion shall be relevant. Consultation with EUROSTAT shall be started on the initiative of any member of the Committee. The official request for consultation and clarification shall be sent to the EUROSTAT by the Office, as the coordinator of the statistical system of Montenegro.

The Parties, in the framework of the Committee, shall appoint a responsible person for each institution individually, which shall be tasked to ensure the implementation of the Agreement, necessary changes, and amendments to the Agreement, as well as for all other outstanding issues.

#### **5.4. Cooperation of the Committee with other working bodies in the field of national accounts**

The Committee shall cooperate and consider the conclusions of the working bodies established for the development of national accounts for the overall economy and individual sectors. In this regard, the Committee shall cooperate with:

1. Working Group dealing with the implementation of the ESA 2010 for the overall economy (Coordinator of the Office, members of the CBM and Ministry of Finance, and other relevant institutions),
2. Working Group dealing with the implementation of the ESA 2010 in public finances (MF coordinator, members of the Office and CBM),
3. Other working groups and other bodies aimed at the development of the ESA 2010 in individual accounts of the system or individual sectors.

In this way, the consistent development of current accounts for individual sectors is provided, as well as for the financial account of the overall economy and individual sectors, which will allow to develop an entire system of accounts for the overall economy and by individual sectors, and thus fulfil the obligations of the ESA 2010 regulation.

#### **6. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

This Agreement contains elements that are partially implemented in the existing system of compilation and exchange of data in Montenegro, and their full implementation is a necessary condition to meet the requirements of the accession of Montenegro to the EU. In this regard, the Parties agree that the implementation of the ESA 2010 referred to in this Agreement shall be carried out through the Committee, as well as through the Programme of Official Statistics.

This Agreement shall be amended with each amendment to the legislation of Montenegro and the EU.

Representatives of the Parties shall prepare the Annex at latest by the end of 2016, when it will become an integral part of the Agreement.

The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signing by the Party that had signed it the latest, and its full implementation will be achieved by the accession of Montenegro to the EU.

All Parties shall be obliged to make the Agreement publicly available on their websites (excluding the Annex).

This Agreement is made in 6 (six) identical copies, 2 (two) copies for each Party.

Statistical Office  
Signed

Central Bank of Montenegro  
Signed

Ministry of Finance  
Signed