

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Montenegro is a unitary state with a republican form of government and a one-tier structure of subnational government, comprising 24 municipalities.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The **National Strategy for Sustainable Development by 2030 (NSSD 2030)**, adopted in 2016, is aligned with the SDGs. An Action Plan has been adopted to implement the national strategy which defines 30 strategic goals with 102 measures and 602 sub-measures.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD)** has a coordinating role. It was established in 2002 as an advisory body with the aim of strengthening the capacity to implement sustainable development policies. It is chaired by the Prime Minister. Its members are representatives of all ministers, the Secretary of the Parliament, the Chief Negotiator for the EU, expert institutions, financial institutions, business associations, universities, NGOs, and the media. A reform in 2021 redesigned the NCSD and five **working groups** were created as expert working bodies. It is supported at the expert-administrative level by the **Office for Sustainable Development (OSD)** created within the Secretariat General of the Government.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The **Office for Sustainable Development** coordinated the 2022 VNR process. A **working group** was set up to prepare the report on the implementation of NSSD 2030 and the VNR. It included representatives from ministries, institutions participating in the implementation of the strategy, the private sector, universities, NGOs, and young people. Three consultative regional meetings were also held with representatives of local governments, educational institutions, civil sector and other stakeholders. Finally, a platform with short surveys about the SDGs was opened up to the public.

1.3 MONITORING

NSSD 2030 defined the system for monitoring national development sustainability. Its **Action Plan** defined target outcomes for every strategic goal and identifies indicators for monitoring their level of achievement. A working report on progress in the implementation of the NSSD was prepared in 2019 and a second one was expected in 2020. However, the availability of quality, up-to-date and disaggregated data/indicators for NSSD 2030 and the SDGs is not at a satisfactory level and there is an insufficient degree of involvement of various administration bodies and institutions in the process of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs.

1. See: <https://www.sng-wofi.org/country-profiles/>

2. See: <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/10695Montenegro%20-%20HLPF%20Report.pdf> (2016); <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Montenegro%20Report.pdf> (2022)

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In Montenegro, LRGs implement activities to localize the SDGs. However, municipalities which established councils for sustainable development or aligned their strategic plans for development with the SDGs are scarce. Representatives of LRGs participated in the consultations organized as part of the process of drafting NSSD 2030. The **Union of Municipalities of Montenegro** also participated in a consultative meeting. Three LRG representatives participate in the multi-stakeholder **National Council for Sustainable Development**.³ One of the new expert working groups of the reformed Council focuses on “sustainable development at the local level”. Moreover, LRGs participated in the 2022 VNR preparation through three **consultative regional meetings** with representatives from 17 municipalities as well as other stakeholders.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Consultative regional meetings were held with representatives from the municipalities.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Three LRG representatives participate in the National Council for Sustainable Development.

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

Both 2016 and 2022 VNRs refer to LRGs but provide very little data on their progress towards the 2030 Agenda. There is a subsection, in the 2016 VNR, presenting the “efforts made by local authorities and non-state actors to implement the SDGs” (see VNR, 2016, p. 61-62).⁴ The 2022 VNR stresses that increased ownership is needed, and implementation has to be stepped up at all levels of government.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2017, the municipality of **Podgorica** was the first one to adopt a Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

In Montenegro, the financing of sustainable development relies on cooperation and joint action of the Parliament, the government and LRGs within their respective competencies and responsibilities. In the last couple of years, progress has been made in financing sustainable development through the gradual introduction of programme budgeting and the establishment of the Eco Fund. However, none of the VNRs provide information on means of implementation for the SDGs at the local level.

3. See: <https://www.ncsds.org/index.php/sustainable-development-councils/country-profiles/85-country-profiles/167-montenegro.html>

4. The 2016 VNR also includes a subsection on the “allocation of responsibilities among levels of government for implementation of the 2030 Agenda” but without much information regarding multilevel coordination (see VNR, 2016, p. 122-123).

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: Montenegro has been a candidate for European Union membership since 2010 and has been negotiating since 2012. According to the 2022 VNR, there is a strong complementariness between the processes of accession to the European Union and achieving the 2030 Agenda. By meeting the obligations in the process of joining the European Union, Montenegro will get much closer to achieving the SDGs.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In 2022, in the municipalities of Danilovgrad and Gusinje, the mayors are women, while in five municipalities (Bar, Cetinje, Kotor, Plav and Šavnik) the presidents of the local assemblies are women. Although some progress has been made, the **Law on the Election of Councillors and Deputies**, which stipulates that at least 30% of the names on electoral lists must be female candidates, at both the state and local levels, is not yet strictly applied.

3.2 COVID 19

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2022 VNR only mentions national initiatives (mainly related to the socio-economic effects of the crisis).

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		27.8 (2017)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	87 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	49 (2020)
	Rural	39 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		27.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		75.9 (2012, All areas or breakdown by cities not available)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		20.4 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

5. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database>