In promoting **sustainable human development**, **UNDP Montenegro** supports the country’s European Union accession priorities, building on its global development network, access to innovative solutions, knowledge, experience and resources. We do so by (i) advancing **democratic society and accountable institutions** with greater citizens’ participation, (ii) building an inclusive society with **equal opportunity to all** citizens to reach their full potential and (iii) promoting **green future** through market transformation toward a low emission, resource efficient and resilient economy.

**About UNDP**

UNDP partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in 177 countries and territories, we offer global perspective and local insight to help empower lives and build resilient nations.

Challenges persist both at central and local levels of governance, and are coupled with the need for empowering citizen participation in societal processes. At the same time, the European Commission’s progress reports repeatedly draw attention to the need to showcase a successful track record in the area of rule of law, access to justice for all, and fighting corruption at all levels.

Social exclusion in Montenegro predominantly affect some vulnerable groups such as: poor and deprived, the long term unemployed, elderly, low-income pensioners, persons with disabilities, refugees and internally displaced persons, HIV/AIDS affected, Roma and Egyptian minorities, etc. Combating poverty and social exclusion requires more effective and adequate targeting of health, employment and social services.

The MONSTAT 2011 Poverty Analysis reveals that the average poverty rate is 9.3%, while for the northern region it is nearly three times higher than the poverty rate in the central and southern regions.

While the population in the north of the country has limited access to public services, women and the elderly have a considerably lower income. Unemployment rates in the North are two times greater than the national average, reflecting growing regional development disparities.

Due to persisting gender-based disadvantages, women are vulnerable and lack political and economic empowerment, including protection against family violence.

However, the north is home to 100 percent of the country’s hydroelectric potential, 67 percent of cultivable land, 71 percent of forests, 70 percent of cattle, all of the country’s known lead, zinc and coal reserves, and significant potential for year-around sustainable tourism (already accounting for some 17 percent of the region’s GDP).

**What UNDP does in Montenegro**

Montenegro aspires to join the European Union, a process requiring thorough reforms, democratization of society as a whole and upholding the rule of law. Despite the country being classified as an upper middle income one- indicating progress in development- an array of challenges is looming, while lingering effects of global financial downturn are putting a strain on Montenegro’s public administration capacities.

The country has invested significant efforts to improve its governance system. Aligning legislative framework with the Acquis requires vigorous action to boost productivity, enhance transparency and meet other objectives of the Strategy for Public Administration Reform.

Montenegro’s small and open economy - reliant on energy intensive industries - is vulnerable to rising resource prices. Montenegro is among the most inefficient consumers of energy and water in Europe.
Urban sprawl (estimates of illegal construction range from 30,000 to 100,000) and illegal deforestation additionally strain the quality of infrastructure and service provision at the local level, increase exposure to various hazards, and erode one of the key potentials for the country’s competitiveness - natural resources.

Montenegro’s economic development is fully reliant on a dynamic and healthy environment with economic growth depending on natural resources.

Along with this transition, UNDP in Montenegro has further emphasized its policy support, technical assistance, innovation and knowledge management. The priority of UNDP operating within the framework of the “Delivering as One” is subsequently to help link policy with practice in addressing the challenges of sustainable human development and European Union accession.

Assisting Montenegro in its key reform agenda and on the European accession path has and will continue to be at the core of UNDP work. In partnership with the government, NGOs, municipalities and other actors, we are focused on results in three main areas namely Democratic Governance, Social Inclusion and Sustainable Development.

Democratic Governance:
Democratic society & accountable institutions
Advancing democratic society through strengthening rule of law, transparency and accountability of institutions with greater citizen participation.

Key results

We support three key reforms: Public Administration, Judiciary and Security sector reform while the overarching priority, the EU accession process is supported through the Capacity Development Programme (CDP). Since 2003, the CDP has contributed to achieving of each milestone in the European Integration process: preparation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement and its implementation; preparation for the EU accession through strengthening the capacities of state administration and specifically EU accession negotiation structures, as well as through developing of key strategic documents, including the National Programme for Integration (NPI), Economic and Fiscal Programme (EFP), Pre-Accession Economic Programme (PEP), the Public Administration Reform Strategy, etc.

We are also supporting the Judicial Reform with a focus on improved access to justice through a functional legal aid system and wider use of mediation. The Rule of Law and Human Rights Programme contributed to drafting and adoption of the Law on legal aid in 2011 and to opening of 15 legal aid offices in all basic courts in the country. Simultaneously, alternative dispute resolution tools were promoted through the support to drafting changes and amendments to the Law on mediation. The Programme initiated and implemented the Anti-corruption training programme for judges and prosecutors with the national Judicial Training Center, and supported the drafting of the new Criminal Procedure Code. It also provided support to the Ministry of Justice in structural setup, strengthening of staff management skills, raising understanding of the EU integration processes, as well as in concluding mutual legal assistance agreements with countries in the region.

In the field of security reform, since 2007, the Montenegro Demilitarization (MONDEM) Programme has removed 128 tons of toxic fuel and 26 tons of napalm thickener from the Boka Bay, and it cut and melted 61 surplus T-55 tanks of the Montenegrin Armed Forces. A total of 1,200 pieces of heavy weapons have been cut, and 1,130 tons of ammunition has been destroyed. The storage depot in Tara, Montenegro was reconstructed in 2011, while works on the second storage unit in Brezovik are underway.

At the local level, the focus of UNDP work is on support to strategic planning, institutional development and Intermunicipal cooperation. Since 2010, the Local Governance Programme has supported the Ministry of the Interior in drafting the Strategy for Inter-municipal Cooperation (2011-2015) and in developing a publication on inter-municipal cooperation, a Manual for issuing municipal bonds in Montenegro as well as a comprehensive functional review of the Human Resource function and management capacities in Montenegrin municipal administrations. Several legislative initiatives came out as a result of a well-balanced combination of trainings, on-the-job mentoring, exchanging of experience through peer to peer support and study tours for the municipal finance officers. The Local Governance Programme also provided technical support to the working groups in charge of drafting Strategic Development Plans for municipalities of Kolašin and Žabljak.

In the area of Public Administration efforts are centered on increasing transparency and accountability of institutions/administration. In 2012, UNDP supported the design and launch of the electronic petitioning platform “Citizens’ Voice”, making Montenegro the first country in the broader region to introduce such a model of citizens’ participation in policy making.

Social Inclusion:
Equal opportunities for all
Advancing social inclusion through improved institutional responsiveness and servicing for the most vulnerable, for all men and women to enjoy the quality life and reach their full potential.
In promoting sustainable human development, UNDP Montenegro supports the country’s European Union accession priorities, building on its global development network, access to innovative solutions, knowledge, experience and resources. We do so by (i) advancing democratic society and accountable institutions with greater citizens’ participation, (ii) building an inclusive society with equal opportunity to all citizens to reach their full potential and (iii) promoting green future through market transformation toward a low emission, resource efficient and resilient economy.

Key results

In advancing the Social Welfare Agenda of Montenegro, UNDP has supported setting-up of 17 local level social services home visits services and day homes for the elderly, day homes for persons with disabilities, SOS telephones for victims of domestic violence and family/youth counseling services.

We also developed flagship reports to promote evidence-based policy making: the 2005 and 2009 National Human Development Reports on diversities potential for development and on social exclusion in Montenegro, as well as the 2013 National Human Development Report on human capital of Montenegro.

In promoting gender equality in the country, we are supporting the political empowerment and participation of women; we provide support to fight against family violence as well as towards economic empowerment of women. The UNDP Gender Programme’s advocacy resulted in introduction of 30% of quota for women in the Election Law, and development of Action plan for political empowerment of women. Through capacity building initiatives, 270 police officers and social workers are now better skilled to implement the Law and the Protocol on family violence. 167 politicians improved their presentation skills through trainings, and 130 women are benefitting from the economic empowerment programs.

Contributing towards keeping the HIV/AIDS prevalence below 1%, our HIV program included service provision through drop-in centers and outreach work for injecting drug users, sex workers, men who have sex with men, Roma and Egyptian youth, merchant marines and prisoners. More than 500 professionals were trained in different aspects of HIV response. Voluntary counseling and testing network resulted in 1132 tested in 2012 with 9.3% clients belonging to most-at-risk populations. More than 200 clients were provided with methadone maintenance treatment. The concept of healthy life styles was introduced as an optional subject in high schools. Bio-behavioral surveys among 200 female sex workers and 312 prisoners and knowledge, attitude and practice surveys among 1171 young people aged 15-24 and 813 health professionals were successfully conducted.

To regulate the status of Roma in the country and their local integration, we have supported over 40% of domicile Roma in acquiring the necessary documentation to access social, employment and other services.

Economy and Environment:
Green future for Montenegro

Advancing market transformation toward low emissions, a resource efficient economy, resilient ecosystems and communities.
Key results

In the area of Sustainable Development, we help the country move towards low emissions, resource efficient economy and to increasing resilience of ecosystems, economies, and communities. Our work towards a resource efficient economy relates for instance on energy efficiency based formalization, energy efficiency interventions in cultural heritage buildings, sustainable tourism and improved environmental monitoring.

To increase resilience, we work on, for instance, leveraging new sources of funding for protected areas through establishment of new regional parks in line with the EU requirements, working with our partners to support multi-hazard planning and disaster risk reduction and supporting small scale business clusters in protected areas.

With UNDP’s support Montenegro achieved the following:

The Government is offering incentives to legalize informal buildings and make them energy efficient at the same time. An action plan is in place, and a law to support legalizing buildings is under development.

The municipalities of Bijelo Polje, Bar and Žabljak collected and analyzed data on average energy consumption, potential savings, and possible GHG reduction for 25 informal households.

The Government developed policies and laws to promote the use of renewable sources of energy, including (i) Law on Concessions, (ii) Energy Law; (iii) Bylaws on privileged power producer, feed-in-tariffs, (iv) tender procedure simplified by reducing the necessary steps by half; (v) technical study on necessary requirements for connecting distributed energy sources to electrical power system grid.

Together with citizens, the Government developed its platform for the Rio+20 summit on sustainable development, based on an analysis of the country’s potential for greening the economy.

Local authorities assessed the risk of floods in 12 municipalities - the first time in the country’s history.


The Government analyzed the economic contribution of protected areas to Montenegro’s GDP, as part of developing a National Financial Plan. The economic benefits of nature protected and protected area system to Montenegrin economy were assessed, serving as the basis for financial and management planning.

The Centre for Vocational Education was designed and adopted two new professions for nature-based tourism (cave tour guides, and sea-kayak and canoe guides).

Montenegrin universities established educational programmes in protected area management and rural development.

Value added

UNDP’s operations in Montenegro focus on the country’s key priorities linked to EU accession, bringing in best international practices and facilitating the engagement of civil society. UNDP promotes evidence based policy making, provides advocacy support, technical assistance, access to knowledge, innovation and expertise, as well as coordination support to the Government. Our comparative advantages in accelerating Montenegro’s sustainable human development stem from our impartiality and global presence, as well as from our successful track record in helping the country attract and use development assistance effectively. UNDP operating within the framework of UN Delivering as One strives to further contribute to UN coherence in the country according to the Joint UN Integrated Framework for the period 2012-2016.

Our partners

Government of Montenegro, key line ministries, local self-governments, specialized institutions, international organizations, academia, private sector and a number of non-governmental and civil society organizations.

We contributed to successful results through excellent cooperation and financial support from the Government of Montenegro as well as governments of Norway, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Sweden and Denmark; the EU Delegation to Montenegro; the European Commission; the OSCE Mission to Montenegro; the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM), the EC SEESAC Programme and the Multi Donor Trust Fund.