



**ECOSOC • Integration Segment (27–29 May, 2014)**  
**SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

**BUILDING  
THE FUTURE**  
**we WANT**

## **MONTENEGRO**

# **Contribution to the 2014 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Integration Segment**

Answers to the Guidance questions for Member States inputs to the Integration Segment:

- Strategic commitment of Montenegro is to rationally and in a sustainable manner use its natural and generated resources and to develop as an ecological state, in accordance with its constitutional determination:
  - Application of sustainable development principles;
  - Continuation of transition reforms
  - Involvement of Montenegro in the European integration developments and the EU, and full utilization of various forms of local and foreign institutional and expert assistance and guidance
  - Expanding of international economic and other exchanges
  - Faster and more sustainable development of economy
  - Achieving social development and cohesion
  - Development of different forms of social communication and interaction
  - Preservation and development of cultural (ethnic, religious, gender, etc.) identity and diversity
  - Timely drafting and adoption of the missing strategic documents (demographic growth and development, rural development, protection and preservation of biological and landscape diversity)

Furthermore, multidisciplinary approach reflected in every planning solution, which involves economic integration, economic, social and ecological dimension through every planning solution and in every area encompassed by the plan.

However, the development and spatial planning policy implies that the space will be protected not only with overall implementation of legislation and compulsive measures, but also with responsibility and care of all bodies, institutions, legal entities and natural persons, therefore with responsibility and care of the entire public for its national interest.

- Types of investments made in Montenegrin cities in order to turn them into sustainable hubs are as follows: development of highly qualified, integrated tourist zones that meet all the conditions of sustainability from the point of view of social standards – open zones with great deal of public facilities, economic standards – contribution to employment of the local population and raising the level of the local economy, and ecological standards – high level of protection in this field. Those are investments that include development of marinas, golf courses and other accompanying facilities. Furthermore, there are investments that are being prepared, they will involve development of transportation infrastructure and will contribute to physical cohesion within Montenegro and with the neighbouring countries, and also investments for construction of facilities for generation of energy from renewable sources (hydropower plants, wind farms and solar farms) with adherence to highest environmental protection standards, which will result with raising the level of living standard and increase of economic and social cohesion of society.

- Specific urban challenges, in an integrated manner, have been dealt with in legal regulations i.e. in laws and rulebooks.

During the 80s, development and spatial planning in Montenegro was based on the existing system of self-governing community planning. The Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures relied on the system of social planning with overall planning of economic and social development, primarily on rules for planning of development of activities in the space and protection of general interest. With abandoning of system of self-governing community planning, the laws have been amended and adjusted to the new requirements. With adoption of new spatial planning legislation, the foundations have been set for

implementation of sustainable spatial development policy, mutual harmonisation of sectoral planning of the space, preparation of expert documents, overall treatment of the space, inclusion of the public and democratisation of decision making.

- The Spatial Plan of Montenegro is implemented through appropriate level of planning documents, as well as through strategies, programmes, etc. that contain solutions related to use of resources and potentials, development priorities, limitations, planning control and conflict resolution, control of threshold of spatial and other developments, environment requirements, seismic risk control and prerequisites that should be met for realisation of specific planning and development concepts. When the Spatial Plan of Montenegro was drafted, current sectoral needs were verified in terms of long-term spatial planning by using integrative, i.e. inter-sectoral approach in accordance with the optimum use of space as a limited and non-renewable process.

When implementing activities defined in the Spatial Plan of Montenegro, as well as for implementation of lower level plans, the competent authorities shall act in accordance with the general goals of spatial planning, that are related to: sustainable development; mitigation of regional inequalities in economic and social development; development of urban and rural areas in accordance with their potentials and limitations; rational use of natural resources; integration of Montenegro into the EU; development and institutionalisation of cross-border cooperation with the surrounding countries (in various important fields such as regional and economic development, infrastructure, environmental protection); implementation of legal solutions, planning documents and international acts related to spatial development.

The Vienna Declaration on informal settlements in South-East Europe, that Montenegro signed in September 2004, envisaged that signatory countries should aspire to find overall solution to the problem of informal settlements in the region by 2015 and oblige to regulate the informal settlements and improve them to the maximum extent (but only in cases that do not impair the appropriate urban development, e.g. violation of rights, environmental protection, protection of cultural heritage).

Having in mind the importance of solving this problem, drafting of the **Law on legalisation of informal settlements** started.

The Amendatory Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Facilities has made significant changes and amendments to the existing legal solutions, in terms of enabling shorter procedure for development of planning documents, in compliance with all the principles of sustainability, determining locations in special cases, issuing of urban and technical conditions, equipping construction land with utilities, etc.

- XIII Meeting of the Council of Europe workshop for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention was held in 2013, in organisation of the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, in cooperation with Council of Europe, and as a part of LAMP project. This event was organised for the 13th time, and it is a practise that established regular organisation of workshops in the Council of Europe member states. The symposium has been organised for the first time in the country that is not an EU member country. These events are of great importance for Montenegro as they deal with aspects, problems, and achievements of spatial planning and landscaping. The exchange of experiences and strengthening of cooperation between countries is also one of important recommendations of this process. The topic of the workshop was: "Territories of the future: landscape identification and assessment, an exercise in democracy".

Protocol on integrated coastal zone management in Mediterranean (Madrid 2008), which is additional protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the

Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention). In accordance with the assumed international commitment, Montenegro adopted the Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean ("Official Gazette of MNE – International Agreements", No 16/11). When the Law on Ratification was adopted – the Protocol became an integral part of internal legal order of Montenegro, it has supremacy over the national legislation and is directly applied when relations are defined in different manner than in the national legislation (Article 9 of Constitution of Montenegro).

In accordance with the upcoming, new spatial organisation policy, there is an obvious need for improvement of legislation – and that will be done, as a **first step**, by drafting amendatory Laws on Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures, and as the **second step** in systemic amendments by adopting the new law. The new law will define the shorter procedures for development of planning documents, the structure of planning documents (type and contents), appropriate economic and market projections, responsibilities of all actors in procedures for spatial planning and construction of facilities, the issue of equipping construction land with utilities in a manner that will not present a business barrier, the issue of land consolidation, issuing of construction permits and other procedures, instruments for implementation of planning documents, etc.

Within the LAMP Project (Land Administration Management Project) of the World Bank and Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, includes the following activities implemented in MoSDT:

1. Education – application of principles of participation of citizens for all municipalities in Montenegro
2. Participation in drafting of Spatial and urban plans and environmental impact assessments for the following municipalities: Bjelo Polje, Plav, Danilovgrad, Nikšić, Royal Capital Cetinje, Kolašin and Šavnik.
3. Application of GIS (Geographic Informational system) in Spatial and planning documents
4. 'Gender' – issues, i.e. women rights in both land management and administration and in spatial planning.

Land policy reform aiming to maximise in the social and economic terms the effects of land use, within the framework of sustainable development policy.

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