

The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

MONTENEGRO

Capital	Podgorica
Population	625,266
Area (in sq.km)	13,812
Languages	Montenegrin, Serbian, Bosnian, Croatian and Albanian
Poverty rate	9.3%
Per capita income	\$13,130
Human Development Index (2015)	0.807 (Rank 48)
Tourist Arrivals (thousands) (2015)	1560



Sources: Monstat, NHDR, World Bank, UNDP

The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017

Title of VNR: Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF 2016 Montenegro

Presenter for VNR: Milorad Šćepanović, Director-General for Multilateral Affairs and Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro, and Jelena Knežević, Head of the Department for Sustainable Development and Integrated Coastal Zone Management at the Ministry of Sustainable Development

National Thematic Focus:

The National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) themes are:

1. improving the state of human resources and strengthening social inclusion, support to values norms and behaviour patterns important of sustainability of society
2. preservation of natural capital and the introduction of green economy
3. governance for sustainable development

Eight most important issues were identified around which priorities for the future should be set:

1. The economy
2. Unemployment, Income and equal regional development
3. Fighting crime, corruption and nepotism
4. Health
5. Equality
6. The environment,
7. Building infrastructure
8. Education and values

Institutional Arrangement:

The central unit for the implementation of NSSD is the Sustainable Development Office in the Office of the Prime Minister, which provides political leadership and oversight.

Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro is responsible for resource mobilisation, allocation and ensuring that there is a direct linkage between planning, budgeting and resource allocation and implementation.

The process of drafting the NSDS until 2030 (which is focused on the SDGS) involved the work of an expert team and a participatory process, including ministers, experts, public sector institutions, local governments, parliament, academia, CSOs and business

Montenegro's National Council for Sustainable Development is an advisory body to the Government with the aim of strengthening the capacity to implement sustainable development policies. The Council is chaired by the President of the State and has a non-governmental representative as its deputy president. The Council has a number of expert working groups. • The Ministry for Environment Protection has overall responsibility for the implementation of sustainable development policy

For issues related to the Addis Abba Action Agenda, an official focal point has been established at the Ministry of Finance.

SDG Incorporation to National Framework:

The Government of Montenegro has adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2030 (NSSD), a long-term strategy to support the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is mapped against Agenda 21 and the 2030 Agenda, and is organized around six areas: (i) human resources, (ii) social resources, (iii) natural resources, (iv) economic resources, (v) governance for sustainable development, and (vi) financing for sustainable development.

Implementation of 2030 Agenda is also through the context of a group of instruments:

1. The NSDS,
2. Programme of Economic Reforms Macro Fiscal Guidelines,
3. The medium term public debt management strategy,
4. The medium-term programme of ascension to the European Union and,
5. The Programme of Structural Reforms by 2020.

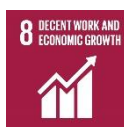
Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:

[Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism](#)

Tourism and SDG in Montenegro:

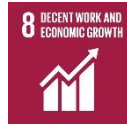
Opportunities

- **Natural resource management**
- **Economic development**
- **Green economy**



In spite of low rate of material intensity, there has been an **improvement of resource efficiency** in the service-oriented sector (tourism) by 57.4% in the previous period and an increase in metabolic rate of 26.7%. However, due to the high correlation between tourism and other services and sectors, small steps towards **greening of tourism** will have a dramatic impact on the greening of the entire economy.

- **Employment creation**



- Estimates by WTTC: employment in tourism will grow considerably faster than the overall employment, i.e. faster than the employment in other sectors, therefore from 10.3% in the current employment structure, it will increase its share to 13.8% by 2026, i.e. to 15% in the overall employment by 2030. (p. 134: Chapter 4: Means of Implementation: 4.1 How means of implementation are mobilised)

- **Green Economy**
- **Finance and investment**
- **Tourism diversification**



- Montenegro's strategic goal: enable the introduction of green economy through mobilisation of funds for sustainable development funding can be achieved by means of the following measures: **tourism and agriculture**; development of **green forms of tourism-diversification of tourist offering**.

Challenges

- **Finance and investment**
- **Sustainable consumption and production**



- There is a **need to expand allocation purpose on sustainable forms of tourism based on nature, sustainable towns/cities**

- **Sustainable consumption and production**
- **Natural resource management**



- The tourism sector is a significant **consumer of natural materials and producer of carbon footprint** - directly or indirectly through the services of accomodation, transport, consumption of food.

- **Urban development**
- **Rural development**
- **Marine and Coastal protection**



- The attractiveness of Montenegro as a tourist destination has led to **rapid urbanization, conversion of agricultural land** into construction land and a severe **pressure on the coastal area**. Despite certain legal solutions, most of the decisions on the implementation of development projects are still based on purely economic effects, while ignoring the social component and the effects on the environment.

- Sustainable consumption and protection
- Green economy



- Disharmony between economic activities and sustainable development goals (including tourism), relatively high level of domestic material consumption (DMC) and low level of productivity of resources (PR)

- Sustainable consumption and protection
- Marine and coastal protection



- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns: **Preserve the attractiveness of the coastal area** for sustainable tourism development, **SDG 12** (p. 113: Chapter 12.2, 12.b Areas of success and milestones reached)

Resources and Useful Links

[Montenegro VNR 2016](#)