

# UNDP Fast Facts

## Montenegro

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*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.*

## Gender Programme IPA 2010: Advancing personal integrity, economic status and political representation of women

Equality between women and men is not just a goal in itself: it is a precondition for the fulfilment of human rights and human development in general, and of the overall EU objectives in regard to growth, employment and social cohesion, in particular. In Montenegro, complex economic, social and political environment shadows and pushes women's issues aside. Gender stereotypes persist and overall social atmosphere is not supportive to gender equality. Institutional gender mechanisms - Department for Gender Equality within the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Parliamentary Board for Gender Equality - are severely under-mandated, understaffed and under-budgeted. Due to persisting gender-based disadvantages, women are vulnerable and lack political and economic empowerment, including protection against family violence.

There is only 17.2% of women in the National Parliament and 14% in local parliaments; only 3 out of 17 ministers are women, there is only 1 woman among 21 mayors, while female participation in entrepreneurship is below 10%.

Policy and legislative developments in the last few years (National Action Plan for Gender Equality and Law on Gender Equality) have created a solid ground to address these problems. It is now important to ensure that these laws and policies are implemented. This will require not only political will, human and financial capacities and continuous monitoring, but also an institutional and cultural transformation process. That transformation process should include elimination of gender bias in national development frameworks, as well as incorporation of gender awareness into broader policies, programs and institutional reforms.

## What we do

UNDP mission in this area is defined as a support to Montenegro to set up gender agenda aligned with international frameworks (EU & UN) and development priorities of the country.

The Gender programme IPA 2010 aims to improve the status of women in terms of their personal integrity, economic advancement and political representation. The specific objective of the programme is to strengthen capacities, improve mechanisms and advance policies. In addition, it aims to improve the conditions for the implementation of the National Action Plan for Gender Equality in three specific components: violence against women and domestic violence; political and economic empowerment of women.

### Specific development functions:

#### • Setting up Gender Agenda for Montenegro aligned with international frameworks (EU & UN):

This function is based on UNDP long-lasting experience and expertise in the area. It encompasses assessment of social trends and provision of gender analyses offering policy solutions, guided by strategic frameworks (National legislation, EU integration and UN Conventions). An added value is introduction of cross - cutting dimensions where specific attention is paid to gender mainstreaming in policy development and capacity development.



• Empowerment of women in politics and decision making:

Development of affirmative legal framework and good practices for participation of women in politics and decision making structures present one of core Programme functions. It is aimed at further enhancement of capacities of politicians and decision makers to implement gender-inclusive approach through tailored educations and assessment and the replicability of best European practices in Montenegrin context.

• Economic empowerment of women:

Together with partners, the Gender Programme IPA 2010 works on creation of economic opportunities for women, specifically within priority areas of development in Montenegro such as agriculture, green economy, tourism, energy etc.

• Fighting violence in family:

The Programme works to establish a sustainable and efficient system for protection of victims of domestic violence and to introduce sustainable measures to prevent violence in family. Recognizing that an estimated one in three women experiences violence in the home, we are focused to ensure that the new Law on Protection of Victims of Violence is fairly interpreted and implemented in daily practice, ensuring that victims actually do experience system-wide support.

## 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.

## Key results

The Gender Programme IPA 2010 is designed to be a partnership program per se. Beside a wide network of partners, including Government bodies, civil society and international community, the Programme team also established a new model of multi-stakeholders participation through Advisory Boards for every of the Programme components.

The three Advisory Boards – for fight against violence against women; for economic advancement and political representation – were established in order to meet Programme's advocacy goals and to ensure a higher degree of local ownership. Members of Advisory Boards are representatives of the Parliament, Government, local government, NGOs, business sector, media, academia and international organizations.

As a result of joint efforts of the Programme and Advisory

Boards, 30% of quota for women was introduced in the Election Law, and the Action plan for political empowerment of women has been developed, resulting with increased number of women in the Parliament from 11% in 2010 to 17% in 2012. The Programme is further working to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to support creation of enabling environment for women's political participation. Tailored training for women politicians are attached to the related institutional strengthening work, while advocacy work is based on researches and assessments of public perceptions and political party's perceptions and expectations from women in political life. Finally, our awareness raising work addresses stereotypes in regard to political participation of women and promotes the political work of women. Currently all parliamentary political parties and more than 100 female politicians benefited from our Programme.



In the sphere of violence we have supported the process of establishment of multidisciplinary teams for violence in family in 10 municipalities which gather near 100 professionals from the police, social centres, judiciary, health institutions and NGOs. Furthermore, a system for monitoring of the implementation of the Law on domestic violence and the relevant Protocol implementation has been set up through randomly selected case study analyses. These efforts have been accompanied with educational programs for professionals in all 21 municipalities which, until mid-June 2013, will have passed more than 300 professional staff.

The programme for economic empowerment is utilizing the entrepreneurial potential of women, which results in boosting of local sustainable development. Three pilot municipalities - Cetinje, Kolašin and Mojkovac - proved that coordinated and synergized work of stakeholders at local level presents an entry point for women's entrepreneurship development. Gender Programme provided support to 150 women potential entrepreneurs until late May 2013.

On a broader level, the Gender Programme actively contributes to on-going activities of the Government when it comes to fulfilling obligations towards EU in the accession process, such as drafting the action plan for Chapter 23.