



Experience Sharing Workshop:  
Integration of Gender Aspects into  
Environmental Policies in the Western  
Balkan region

# Recent developments on gender mainstreaming and environment: Experience of Montenegro

**Olivera Kujundzic**

Ministry for Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, Montenegro

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# Legislative and regulatory framework

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- **The Constitution of Montenegro** (2007) guarantees equal rights for all citizens without discrimination of any kind and provides the strong base for the introduction of gender equality.
- **The Law on Gender Equality**, as the first and most important anti-discrimination law in the field of gender equality in Montenegro, was adopted in 2007. This law defines gender equality as the equal participation of women and men in all spheres of public and private sector, equal status and equal opportunity to exercise all rights and freedoms and the use of personal skills and knowledge for the development of society as well as equal benefit from the results of their work.
- No gender issues are regulated in environmental laws and regulations.

# Gender Equality Index

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- The Gender Equality Index measures gender equality in the EU Member States across six domains: work, money, knowledge, time, power and health. The index value is displayed on a scale from 1 to 100, where 1 represents complete inequality, while the value of 100 represents complete equality.
  - **The Gender Equality Index for Montenegro is 55,** while for the EU-28 it is 67.4.

(MONSTAT)

*"Although there is progress (e.g in development of female entrepreneurship), Montenegro's society is faced with the problem of small share of women in the decision-making positions, discrimination and violence against women and traditional division of male and female roles"*

Women's Contribution to the Economy of Montenegro, M.  
Vukovic, UNDP 2020

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# Employment, unpaid care and domestic work

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- Women are hardly represented in employment in sectors such as mining, construction, electricity, gas and water supply, wastewater treatment, even transport. However, in some other sectors, like education, health, social and personal services, finance and insurance, there are more women than man.
  - According to agriculture census data from 2010, holders of family farms are mostly men (87,13%). Other household members who work on the farm are mostly women (66%).
  - Recent study shows that the unpaid care and domestic work done by women amounted to 10 per cent of GDP in 2019. In the same period, unpaid care and domestic work done by men amounted less than 5 per cent of the GDP.
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# Women, environment and traditional roles in society

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Traditional roles imply that women are, in general:

1. More exposed to chemicals;
    - Cleaning
    - Make-up & cosmetics
    - Food and drugs
    - Pesticides
  2. More responsible for household waste generation;
    - Cooking
    - Shopping
    - Cleaning
  3. In charge of primary household waste sorting and disposal;
  4. More responsible for water pollution by households;
    - Cooking
    - Washing
    - Cleaning
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# Institutional aspects and capacity building

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- There is no focal point in the Ministry of Environment in charge of gender issues
- No specific capacity building has been done so far, except in connection to certain international environmental agreements (eg. UNFCCC, Minamata Convention)
- Socio-economic data related to sex/gender are available
- MONSTAT 2020/WOMEN AND MEN IN MONTENEGRO  
[https://www.monstat.org/cg/publikacije\\_page.php?id=212&pageid=142](https://www.monstat.org/cg/publikacije_page.php?id=212&pageid=142)



# Gender mainstreaming in environmental policies

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- Gender is elaborated in the National Strategy of Sustainable Development (2016), but not strictly in the context of gender mainstreaming in environmental policy;
- In 2017, Montenegro was included in a regional programme to support gender mainstreaming in the MRV (monitoring, reporting, verification), implemented by the United Nations Global Programme for Support. In Montenegro, this programme raised the level of knowledge and understanding of the correlation between gender and climate change and resulted in the drafting of the Action Plan for the gender mainstreaming agenda;
- The Second Biennial Update Report (BUR 2019) and the Third National Communication (2020) to the UNFCCC have separate chapters on gender equality and climate change.



# Stakeholders' engagement/participation

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- Montenegro is a Party to the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and pursues its implementation, including ensuring public participation;
- However, there are no specific provisions to achieve a gender balance in participation, but an equal opportunity for all.





# Thank you for your attention

**Olivera Kujundzic**

Ministry for Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism, Montenegro

Email:

Tel:

Web: