



United Nations Development Programme

MEDIA ADVISORY



Montenegro

October 17th, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

What: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Montenegro will hold a press conference to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The conference will be hosted by:

Resident Representative a.i., Mr. Garret Tankosić Kelly
Economy and Environment Team Leader, Ms. Sanja Bojanić
Institutional and Judicial Reform Team Leader, Mr. Mirsad Bibović
Social Inclusion Team Leader, Mr. Miodrag Dragišić

If we could turn the population of Montenegro into a small community of 100 people, 12 would be absolutely poor (living without sufficient supply of food, adequate accommodations, clothes and footwear) and 30 would be economically vulnerable, very close to absolute poverty. Nearly half (45%) of the poor population of Montenegro live in the North.

Measured through consumption of 10% of the poorest and of 10% of those at top of consumption scale, the inequality in Montenegrin society is the greatest in the region.

Approximately 2/3 of Montenegrin families do not own a computer, and only 1/5 of population use internet.

If Montenegro had 100 inhabitants 51 would be women and 49 men. Out of 51 women only 4 would own real estate assets (apartment, house) and 3 of them would have their own car.

Public administration expenditures account for nearly a half of Montenegro's annual budget.

88% of SMEs in Montenegro faced corruption-related problems personally, as victims or as witnesses, and 77% of SMEs do not trust the judicial system.

Montenegro imports 1/3 of total energy consumption which is equal to approximately 60 Million Euros. The aluminum industry accounts for half of total annual electricity consumption. The price of electricity sold to private sector aluminum industry is approximately 2 cents per/KWA while the citizens pay approximately 4,9 cents per/KWA. Is it possible that the households in Montenegro could be subsidizing the aluminum industry with approximately 1 Euro every day?

It is widely recognized that without growth it is hard to reduce poverty. It is possible to achieve significant economic growth without reducing poverty at the same time, unless action is taken...

(Video clip containing the above segments and more can be downloaded at <http://www.undp.org.yu/montenegro>)

When: October 17th (Tuesday), at 12:00

Where: Multimedia Conference Hall - KIC Budo Tomović, Podgorica, Montenegro

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UNDP in Montenegro promotes sustainable development, which is economically viable, socially inclusive and environmentally friendly.