

United Nations Development Programme



*Montenegro*

## **Evaluation of the Economy and Environment Cluster of UNDP Country Office in Montenegro**

### **REPORT**

**Project:** Sustainable Development Pilot Initiatives

**Post Reference:** MNE/08/019

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Podgorica 2009

## **Executive summary**

The Report is prepared based on the results of the external evaluation mission to Podgorica, Montenegro conducted in the period from 1 to 13 November 2008. Numerous interviews with the main actors and stakeholders were held and a background study of relevant projects, program documents, reports, work and action plans. The purpose of the external evaluation was to review and assess the performance, progress, cross-cluster and cross-institutional cooperation of the Economy and Environment (EE) Cluster in the years 2005 to 2008 of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Country Office (CO) in Montenegro. Additional objective of the evaluation was to review and assess the projects' key results implemented in the frame of the EE Cluster and to suggest a framework of sustainable development indicators (SDI) for the EE Cluster projects.

In 1991, the Montenegrin Parliament adopted a declaration on Montenegro as an 'Ecological State', in Montenegro's Constitution the country is defined as a "**democratic, civic and ecological state.**" A commitment to sustainable development was confirmed in 2002 when the concept of Montenegro being an ecological state was re-launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Montenegro was adopted in 2007.

A general conclusion of the evaluation is that the **Objectives** of the **Economy and Environment Cluster** (EEC) were achieved **very nearly by 100 %**. The EEC and its project outputs and outcomes are fully in compliance with the MYFF, SRF and CPAP priorities. The EEC is leading the work in achieving sustainable development in Montenegro and is well focused in its Projects that have also been accepted by the Government. The management of EEC/UNDP was described as responsive and inclusive. High marks were given to the office staff in Podgorica for their effective, high quality and professional work.

The actors assessed that the projects with their **outputs and outcomes have had a significant impact** on contributing to positive change in Montenegrin society which has been a target in the SRF and on the priority list of the Government of Montenegro. Outcomes were seen to definitely have a long-term impact, which was especially stressed by several stakeholders; all political parties were seen to be aware of the importance of achieving the 'ecological/sustainable state'. Impressive confidence in the continuation of building the sustainable society/ ecological state was expressed by all stakeholders. This was seen in connection to achieving the newly set mid-term political target; that is starting negotiations for the membership in the EU. It is believed that the environmental/ sustainable development issues will gain much attention in the coming years while the environment was named as one of the four top priorities of the country in the last EU progress report<sup>1</sup>. Thus it is likely that the environment/ sustainable development will have high priority on the agenda of the Government of Montenegro independent on its political composition. The actors assessed the overall role of the UNDP CO and EEC in Montenegro as having significant positive impact on guiding the development of Montenegro towards the ecological state/ sustainable society in accordance with the Article 1 in the Constitution of Montenegro.

Evaluation of the EEC shows that the organization is able to mobilize funds; prepare, implement, manage, monitor, evaluate projects and plan follow-up activities at a high professional level and thus is a reliable partner to all the donors who see their mission as aiding Montenegro in becoming an European ecological state/ sustainable society and a member of

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<sup>1</sup> **Montenegro 2008 Progress Report**, COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT accompanying the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2008-2009 {COM(2008) 674}, SEC(2008) 2696, Brussels, 5.11.2008.

the EU after an accession period of ten to fifteen years. Donor assistance is crucial for Montenegro in managing the double transition period successfully; that is completing the transition from a joint to independent state with its own market economy and democracy that needs to be followed by a transition from a neo-liberal “markets solve all problems” model to a sustainable, economically viable, socially fair and ecologically healthy society.