

Waste prevention country profile

Montenegro

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European Environment Agency



Country profile: Montenegro

General information

Name of the country/ region	Montenegro
Geographical coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/ regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan or into the circular economy strategy)	N/A
Title of programme and link to programme	National waste management plan, link not available
Duration of programme	2022-unknown
Language	Montenegrin
Contact person in the country/region	N/A
Development process of the programme/ revision	To be included in the new national waste management plan and was expected to come into force in 2022, though no further information was found on this at the time of updating this country profile.
Foreseen budget for implementation of the programme	Not available

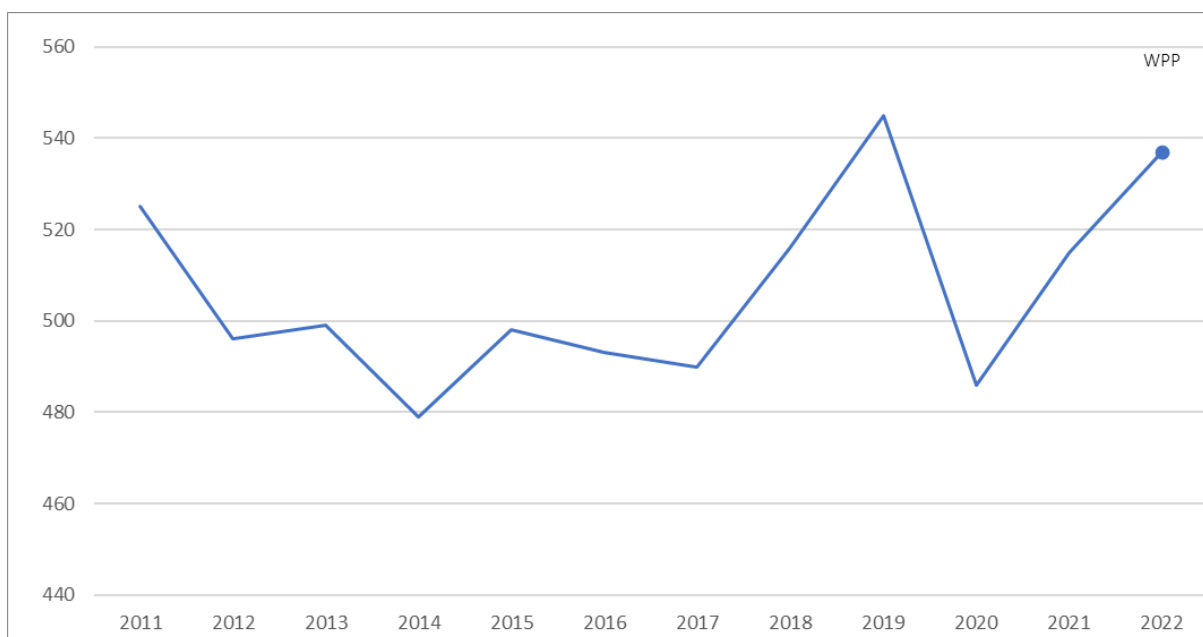
WASTE GENERATION

The following figures illustrate the progress towards waste prevention and decoupling of waste generation from economic growth in Montenegro.

Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

The generation of per capita municipal waste has fluctuated but steadily decreased from 2011 (525 kg) to 2017 (490 kg), then increased above 2011 levels in 2019 (before falling back down to below 2017 levels in 2020 at 486 kg). While other countries experienced an increase in MSW generation most likely due to methodological changes in reporting Montenegro's shows a significant rise to 537 kg in 2022 which is higher than the EU average of 513 kg¹ in the same year (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Municipal waste generation in Montenegro (kg per capita), 2004-2022



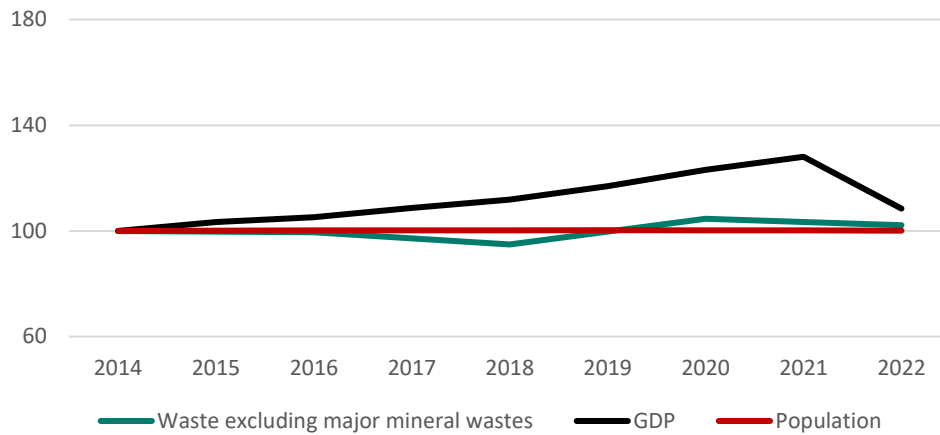
Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASMUN].

¹ Based on data collected from Eurostat in November 2023.

Total waste (excluding major mineral waste)

From 2012 to 2022, total waste (excluding major mineral wastes) grew by 2,5 % with a drop by 2,3 % between 2018 and 2020 (Figure 2). Montenegro's GDP grew at the same time with 31,4 % (-11,8 % between 2018 and 2020) As the GDP grew faster between 2012 to 2022 this could indicate a possible relative decoupling.

Figure 2 Generation of waste (excluding major mineral wastes), population and economic development, 2014-2022



Source: Eurostat [ENV_WASGEN, NAMA_10_PC, DEMO_GIND]

Note: Waste generation data for odd years are interpolated.

WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Objectives and priorities

1.	Waste prevention objectives of the Programme - quantitative objectives (waste reduction) - qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/ environmental impacts)	The waste prevention programme is under development and will be integrated into the national waste management plan to be launched in 2022. No details are currently available about the content.
2.	Sectors covered	N/A
3.	Priority waste types	N/A
4.	Target groups	N/A

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1.	Indicators used to monitor progress	N/A
2.	Quantitative targets	N/A
3.	Monitoring mechanism of the programme	N/A
4.	Evaluation of the programme	N/A

Prevention measures

Implemented prevention measures according to Article 9 N/A

The waste prevention programme includes the following measures that are proposed to avoid waste generation (Chapter 1.5):

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured according to Art 9 WFD

<p>Promote and support sustainable consumption models</p>	<p>A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project 2018-2021 (UNDP Montenegro, 2018) aims to create a favourable business climate and conditions for private sector investment in lowcarbon and other environmentally friendly businesses in Montenegro. Activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policy development and business support services for green start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises: • green business financing • raising awareness of green business practices and financing opportunities <p>The capital city Podgorica has developed a business plan for a bike sharing service (Green Home and env.net, 2019)</p>
<p>Encourage the design, manufacturing and use of products that are resource-efficient, durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), reparable, re-usable and upgradable.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regard to single-use plastics (SUPs), in 2019 the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism confirmed that the new draft law on waste management will be harmonised with the EU SUP • Directive on reducing the impact of the production of certain plastics (Šašić, 2019) • The Government of Montenegro and the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro, with the support of the Office of the UNDP, have begun the process of creating guidelines for the development of Montenegro’s roadmap to a circular economy. In 2020, the government selected a team of consultants who will obtain the necessary information and data and drafting the roadmap
<p>Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent that those materials become waste.</p>	<p>The NSSD priority ‘Improve waste management applying the circular economy-based approaches’ includes the measure to develop a system for management of special waste streams, of which used batteries and accumulators, end-of-life vehicles and waste electrical and electronic equipment are sources of critical raw materials. In addition, various local initiatives, e.g. by the non-governmental organisation (NGO) Green Heart have launched the action for collecting electronic waste (Green Home</p>

<p>Encourage the re-use of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and re-use activities, including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products.</p>	<p>and env.net, 2019)</p> <p>Reuse is supported by Zero Waste Montenegro projects through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deposit-return systems to collect large quantities of beer bottles for reuse and high-quality recycling. • separately, the programme ‘Every can is counted’ is a partnership between can manufacturers, beverage manufacturers, the recycling industry and environmental organisations to encourage recycling • plastic waste reduction projects at two public institutions • continued awareness-raising campaigns on avoiding using SUPs • organising classroom activities for children and providing them with educational information on YouTube • producing and promoting reusable shopping bags made of cotton <p>The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism and Zero Waste Montenegro are to establish legislation on plastic bags</p>
<p>Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights , the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and re-use of products without compromising their quality and safety.</p>	
<p>Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques.</p>	<p>The NSSD targeted the following increase in industrial resource productivity during the period 2013-2020 (European Topic Centre Waste and Materials in a Green Economy, 2019):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 164.6 % in the service sector (tourism) • 93.6 % in agriculture and fisheries • 201.1 % in the construction industry • 158.4 % in the energy sector • 9.7 % in the processing industry <p>Extractable minerals (iron, lead, aluminium, etc.) in Montenegrin waste streams are mapped in the Reserve and RIS-Restore projects (EIT RawMaterials, 2018, 2020)</p>

<p>Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030.</p>	<p>Some supermarkets have introduced promotional discounts for items close to their expiry date or sales of two products for the price of one</p>
<p>Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and the reprocessing into non-food products.</p>	<p>Banka Hrane Crna Gora (Food Bank Montenegro)</p>
<p>Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at Union level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism is to adopt legal provisions that will contribute to the resolution of the issue of collecting and final treatment/destruction of the waste containing PFOS (perfluorooctanesulfonic acid or perfluorooctane sulfonate) under the national plan for implementation of the Stockholm Convention, with an action plan for 2019-2023</p>
<p>Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for re-use or recycling.</p>	<p>NSSD until 2030 has defined the strategic goal and its first priority: to 'Improve waste management applying the circular economy-based approaches'. The first measure is stated as: (1) Encourage activities aimed at the reduction of waste generated in the territory of Montenegro</p>
<p>Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products, where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they shall ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory.</p>	<p>A German-funded project (2018-2022) on marine litter prevention includes promoting a regulatory framework for reducing and banning SUP (GIZ, 2018) items and monitoring plastic in waterways</p>
<p>Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds.</p>	<p>The Declaration of Ulcinj on the Prevention of Marine Litter, signed in 2020 by five municipalities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, focuses on minimising waste and littering and efforts to recycle, as well as raising awareness and a call to action. Citizens and firms alike must participate, according to the message (Todorović, 2020)</p>

FOOD WASTE PREVENTION

Food waste generation

Quality data on food waste generation volumes in Montenegro are not available. The *UNEP Food waste index report 2021* estimates that household food waste in Montenegro is 83 kg per capita per year and in total 51 988 tonnes per year, but with low confidence (UNEP, 2021). According to a questionnaire study of households, the monthly economic value of food waste is EUR 5-25 and bakery products are the most wasted foods (Berjan et al., 2019).

Measures to prevent food waste

Some supermarkets have introduced promotional discounts to items close to their expiry date or selling two products for the price of one (Berjan et al., 2019).

REUSE OF PRODUCTS

Data

Montenegro has not reported any data for reuse of textiles, furniture, electrical and electronic equipment and construction and building materials according to Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/19 for the year 2021 by the reporting deadline (EEA, 2024)

Measures to support reuse

Montenegro has proposed a potential ban on plastic bags in its Waste Management Bill. Plastic bags, as stated in the proposal, will be permitted only in the packaging in which the product is packed and if the use of such items is 'necessary for security reasons'. This action will promote the use of reusable shopping bags such as wicker baskets and linen or paper bags. the proposal was made as a result of work done by Zero Waste Montenegro in promoting the use of reusable shopping bags to reduce the consumption and waste generation of SUP bags (Zero Waste Montenegro, 2020b).

With regard to SUP items specifically, in 2019 the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism confirmed that the new draft law on waste management will be harmonised with the EU Directive on reducing the impact of certain plastic products on the environment (the SUP Directive).

Best practice examples

A project on preventing marine litter commenced in 2018. It involves local and national actors in the waste and recycling industry in Montenegro and surrounding countries, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The focus of implementation is on regional cooperation and the exchange of knowledge between national institutions, municipalities and companies.

The partner communities are supported in the planning and implementation of an integrated waste management system in which the generation of waste is avoided. By signing the joint 'Declaration of Ulcinj on the Avoidance of Marine Litter' and a declaration of intent, five municipalities have committed themselves to specific goals with a view to reducing the amount of waste discharged into the sea.

The project promotes a regulatory framework for reducing and banning SUP items (GIZ, 2018).

Links to circular economy

Waste prevention is an integral part of the comprehensive transformation towards a circular economy. It reduces the input of natural resources into the economy as well as the necessary efforts to collect and recycle waste.

Approaches for improving circularity are often highly interlinked with successful waste prevention. The following table shows which circular strategies are explicitly integrated into Montenegro's waste prevention programme.

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	N/A	
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	N/A	
Recycling	N/A	
Economic incentives and finance	N/A	
Circular business models	N/A	
Eco-innovation	N/A	
Governance, skills and knowledge	N/A	