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**through their  
Joint Intersectoral Task Force on Environmental Indicators**

**jointly with  
UNITED NATIONS STATISTICS DIVISION**

***JOINT MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS***

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**NATIONAL REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
INDICATORS**

Submitted by Montenegro<sup>1</sup>

In agreement with international politics of Montenegro, process of European integrations is recognized as one of the main priorities. In order to lower differences between Montenegro and EU during the process of joining and stabilization in the field of monitoring of environmental state and reporting about environment it is crucial to adopt EU standards and recommendations; more precisely, standards and recommendation of European Environmental Agency (EEA) and Eurostata (Statistical Institute of EU). Agreeable indicators groups and reports about environment, with accepted EU norms and standards, unquestionably represents important step toward firm control over environment. Standards will provide exchange of data on national and international level, which will in return, to European Union and wider international region, be of assistance to Montenegro in terms of technological aid (consultants and transfer of technology).

In 2002 is made first attempt in creating information about state of the environment, based on European Environmental Agency indicators, in Montenegro. However, throughout the attempt of creating the report many problems such are inexistence of needed statistical data which would need to show in the course of the indicators and misunderstanding importance and meaning of indicators by institutional

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stuff on governmental and local level. In result to these problems this attempt was not successful in receiving relevant information about the conditions of environment. However, it did show need and complexity of process to create and define national list of indicators.

Defining list of indicators to oversee environmental conditions is necessary prerequisite for creation of functional reporting system which will meet international standards and requirements. Without list of indicators overview of environmental conditions cannot be referent and relevant. As of right now Montenegro is in characteristic position because national list of indicators are still not delineated and created, and because of this conditions of environment cannot be defined. Undefined and not created indicators are the reason why this report is probably different than others from the countries which are attending because Montenegro do not have capability of presenting firm problems from the aspects of indicator's implementation.

According to the experience of other countries and international institutions, we are convinced that environmental indicators are effective and useful tool in environmental reporting and efficiency in the implementation of environmental policies. Because of this we are aware that it is crucial to start the process of defining and creating indicators as well as their implementations as soon as possible. Process of indicators development is a dynamic and that is subject to continuous updating and improvement. Importance of defining list of indicators is recognized in new environmental law ("Sl. List Crne Gore" No. 48/08 from 11.08.2008) which was in place from 11.08.2008. In article ten of this law us is stated that Environmental Protection Agency of Montenegro has obligation for doing the monitoring of environmental conditions, analyzing data, reporting, communicating with relevant national and international organizations, and communication with NGO and public. This law has created prerequisite for better reformation and organization of monitoring system for environment and improvement of programs is relations to international obligations. Under the new law Environmental Protection Agency is in charge to create proposition for environmental indicator list and to pass them to the government of Montenegro for their approval. Creating proposing list of indicators is planned for third and fourth quarter of this year.

From the opening (1 March 2009) of Environmental Protection Agency, aware of the problems, preparing activities had started right away so that process of creating proposing list of indicators can be finished soon as possible. Agency has 80 employees and it is organised in 5 sectors:

- Sector for monitoring, analysis and reporting;
- Sector for issuing licenses;
- Sector for communication and IT system;
- Sector for inspection;
- Sektor for general affairs.

## **Future Activities**

It is planned to form new working groups for development of indicators for different fields. Representatives from different institutions will be placed in these working groups and they will participate in process of collecting and analyzing environmental data of Montenegro. It is believe that creating these diverse working groups will give better outcome in understanding diverse problems of indicators and in their adequate implementation. We also think that forming of such working groups would give a considrable contribution to a better indicator issue undrstanding, which would lead to their adecvate implementation. It is planned to use the experiances of the neighbouring countries such as Croatia and Serbia, having in mind their state and institution simillarities. In that sense it is planned to take some experts from that countries.

In our plans there is also forming of a solid environmental database and an information system, which will be under the Agency of Environmental Protection of Montenegro. By these we intend to solve a obvious data flow problem that is now present.

## **The problems**

The problems evidenced till now and with witch working groups could meet during their work on indicator lists as well as the problems which could occur during their implementation could be (based on previous experience):

- lack of experience and trainings in this field;
- lack of historical data to be compared with the present state, to conduct analysis and development and estimations of the trends;
- lack of relevant data that could be useful for comparing and making serve adecvate reports based on environmental indicators;
- quality, format of data which in most cases require detailed analysis and checking;
- impossibility to track the trend of the given phenomenon as a result of non-continuous data collection by the relevant instituions and organizations. That cause lack of data for certain periods/years;
- regular data/information flow has not been established yet. Existing data is owned by different institutions. By the montenegrin Environmental low Agency of environmental protection of Montenegro is in obligation to conduct and develop information sistem and environmental data basis. The process have already begun;
- the lack of qualified stuff and technical capacities and facilities on local and state level.

## **Conclusion:**

Considering that we are at very beginning of the process and with aim to make functional, dynamic and international acceptable system of the indicators the Montenegro is in need for an experts and technical support, by relevant international institutions.