



## Montenegro



### Government focal points

**Kemal Purišić**  
Minister of Labour  
and Social Welfare



**Government  
Contacts and  
References**

### Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

**2016**

*The Family Law of Montenegro was amended, prohibiting all forms of VAC, including corporal punishment in all settings, as well as the home.*

**2016**

*In January, the government instigated annual high-level inter-ministerial meetings on the protection of children from violence and exploitation, with the objective of fostering intersectoral cooperation, facilitating dialogue on the problem at the highest political level and directing government policy.*

**2016**

*In July, a multi-year campaign, End Violence, was launched by the Prime Minister of Montenegro, reiterating the Government's commitment to end VAC and to promote systematic efforts to prevent it. The first phase addressed online violence.*

**2017**

*In February, the second phase of the End Violence campaign was launched at a high-level conference, focusing on family violence and all forms of childhood adversity. This conference sparked a public debate on the protection of children from all forms of violence.*

**2017**

*In 2017, the Government launched the first Montenegro Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence and the Action Plan 2017–2021.*



**Multi-stakeholder  
Collaboration and  
Consultation  
with Children**

Montenegro's National Action Plan 2017–2021 to prevent and protect children from violence was developed through multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral consultations that included the Government, UNICEF, NGOs, academia, the media and youth networks. It sets out the vision, goal and strategic objectives with a multidisciplinary response, and covers key areas, such as schools, primary health care centers, social services and the judicial system. Community-based operational multidisciplinary teams for protection from family violence and VAC, now operating in 17 municipalities, have created a comprehensive multi-sectoral approach to the protection of children from all forms of neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation.

### Investments from the End Violence Fund

- Montenegro is one of the ten priority countries of the regional project supported by the Fund and led by the **Council of Europe** to strengthen legislative frameworks and national capacity to prevent and respond to online child sexual abuse and exploitation, including awareness-raising activities on child online safety.

- In 2013, the first survey on adverse childhood experiences was carried out in 2013. It reported a high prevalence of violence and other adversities in childhood at a policy dialogue supported by WHO.
- In 2013, the research institute Ipsos carried out a survey on the awareness, attitudes and practices of VAC, contracted by UNICEF.
- In 2016, Ipsos carried out a survey among the public related to VAC, contracted by the SOS helpline for women and children victims of violence (Niksic), the Centre for Women's Rights and UNICEF.
- In addition, research was conducted on the online experiences of children and parents within the Global Kids Online research network developed by UNICEF Innocenti in collaboration with the London School of Economics.



### Data Collection and Situation Analysis

Montenegro's action plan aims to implement multiple INSPIRE strategies. The proposed interventions include initiatives to: (I) amend the Labour Code to incorporate provisions stipulating a record of no prior convictions for severe VAC, in particular for sexual exploitation or abuse, as a job requirement for people working with children; (S) eliminate the repeated victimization of child victims and witnesses by setting up separate child-friendly rooms in courts and prosecution offices, separating the child from the perpetrator, using video links to interview children in separate rooms and upgrading the equipment; (P) enhance the quality and frequency of home visits by nurses to families with newborn babies; and (R) set up child and adolescent psychiatric wards and develop quality services to work with the perpetrators of VAC. Following the 2017 action plan, the Ministry of Health started strengthening home care services and developing a protocol on the work of health care institutions in prevention and response to violence against children, while the Ministry of Interior issued Guidelines for the work of the relevant institutions in cases of identifying and prosecuting child marriages and domestic partnership. Within the WePROTECT global programme on fighting online child sexual exploitation, the Net Friend educative mobile app for children was launched to raise awareness of online safety among children, the general public and professionals. In 2012, the first helpline for child victims of violence was established. In 2017, a national parental helpline was launched, providing free counseling for parents in need of support. The Parenting for Lifelong Health program for parents of children two to nine years of age, aimed at enhancing parenting skills and reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect, has been piloted since early 2018 and implemented by health centers, kindergartens and NGOs.



### Collective Action and INSPIRE

#### Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2018.  
Underwent UPR in 2017.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2016.



### Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

#### Build political will/global movement

1. Support a midterm review of the Montenegro Strategy for the Prevention and Protection of Children from Violence and the Action Plan 2017–2021.

#### Resource mobilization

2. Investigate opportunities for pre-accession funding from the European Union in regard to preventing and responding to violence against children.

#### Equip practitioners

3. Implement evidence-based national guidelines on health sector response to child maltreatment with support of WHO/UNICEF.
4. Train frontline healthcare providers in identification of and response to physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.
5. Document Montenegro's work around youth engagement as an example for other countries in the region.
6. Ensure that the 2016 ban prohibiting corporal punishment is implemented, including through training on parenting programs (e.g., parenting for lifelong health) and awareness-raising campaigns.