

Impact factsheet Montenegro

*From ratification to
the end of the baseline
evaluation procedure
under the Council of
Europe Convention
on preventing and
combating violence
against women and
domestic violence*

2013 Ratification

Ratification of the Istanbul Convention by Montenegro on 22 April 2013.

2018 Baseline evaluation report by GREVIO

Findings made by GREVIO on the level of implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Montenegro, including on the need for suitable financial resources for women's rights organisations, training of professionals, improving specialist support services, including for victims of sexual violence and child witnesses of domestic violence, more clarity regarding the difference between the misdemeanour and the criminal offence of domestic violence, a swift and impartial response of law enforcement officials to violence against women, the immediate availability of protection orders and access to free legal aid. Assessment made on the basis of the Montenegrin Government's state report, shadow reporting by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and an evaluation visit.

2018 Comments from the Montenegrin Government

Comments from the authorities on GREVIO's assessment.



Signature by Montenegro, 11 May 2011

2019 Recommendations of the Committee of the Parties

Adoption of fifteen recommendations based on GREVIO's findings for further action regarding comprehensive measures that address all forms of violence against women, notably by developing a long term co-ordinated plan or strategy and allocating appropriate financial resources, including for women's rights organisations, the full institutionalisation of a co-ordinating body, data collection, increased training for all professional groups that come in contact with the victims, the setting up of rape crisis and/or sexual violence referral centres and more operational clarity regarding the difference between the misdemeanour and the criminal offence of domestic violence, as well as the need to improve the swift and impartial response of law enforcement officials to such cases.

2022 Government reporting on progress made

Information on progress made in Montenegro between 2018 and 2021 in relation to the recommendations received.

More information on Montenegro's ongoing progress in implementing the Istanbul Convention is available at coe.int/en/web/istanbul-convention/montenegro

2022 Committee of the Parties' conclusions

Adoption of conclusions on the implementation of the Committee's recommendations, confirming progress made regarding comprehensive and co-ordinated policies, notably through the adoption of national policy documents, the increase of financial resources for programmes run by NGOs, the improvement of the collection and exchange of data and the setup of premises designed to provide a safe environment for victims of violence against women within law enforcement agencies. Further measures encouraged in relation to ensuring equal access to support services for all victims of violence against women, the institutionalisation of the national co-ordinating body, ensuring appropriate financial resources, the immediate availability of protection orders, the systemic and compulsory training for all professional groups, and the setup of rape crisis and/or sexual violence referral centre.

2024 Final implementation report from the Montenegrin Government

Report detailing the measures taken in response to the conclusions, especially regarding the implementation of the national plan for preventing and combating violence against women without discrimination, the establishment of a national co-ordinating body, the funding of shelters, the implementation of protection orders, the training of professionals and steps taken to introduce a rape crisis centre.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS



Over the course of the baseline evaluation procedure, the policy framework in Montenegro was strengthened in 2021 with the adoption of a **National Plan for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention (2023-2027)**, prepared by a working group involving the Ombudsman and women's rights organisations, and the adoption of the **National Gender Equality Strategy** for the period 2021-2025 which focuses, inter alia, on the protection against gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace.



A **Gender Map** was introduced, which is an electronic platform serving as a multi-functional tool by pooling information on women's exposure to violence against women and discrimination, their lower socio-economic status in society and information on available support services as well as data on the responses offered by statutory agencies.



The **funds for programmes and projects run by NGOs** were increased, with priority focus on those combating violence against women as well as the measures taken to allocate state funding for shelters and other specialist support services, resulting in an increase in domestic violence shelter places.



Steps were taken to improve the **collection and exchange of data on cases of violence against women**, notably through the introduction of a database for domestic violence as part of the Integrated Social Welfare Information System (SWIS) connecting the social welfare centres with the law enforcement authorities.