Montenegro

GDP real growth rate: 7.5% (2008) GDP per capita: 10,600 \$ (2008 est.)

GDP per sector: N/A

Human Development Index: 0.834 (rank 65)

Number of inhabitants (in 000's): 622

Major industries: Steel, aluminium, farm-products

processing, tourism, consumer goods.

Main Issues related to SCP-

Since Montenegro voted for separation from Serbia in 2006, great efforts have been made to develop legislation and strategies which, among other purposes, would permit its incorporation in the European Union. The main environmental concerns are low energy efficiency, waste generation and depletion of natural resources, particularly in coastal areas, mainly due to industry and tourism.

Energy:

Montenegro is characterized by low energy efficiency due to an extremely energy intensive industry with obsolete, inefficient technology and subsidized pricing inherited from the former centralized system. A third of energy consumption is imported from abroad.

Waste:

Waste management is one of the major problems. There is still no adequate waste collection and disposal, particularly for hazardous waste. An estimated 50% of solid urban waste ends up in unofficial dumps, without any previous selection or treatment, or is dumped directly into the sea.

Natural Resources:

Water consumption is exceptionally high due to subsidized prices and a large number of leaks in the distribution system. A secure and permanent supply is not available, in particular during the summer. Excessive logging, a loss of biodiversity in coastal areas and the deterioration of the soil quality from mining and quarrying, metal processing and brick and tile industries are pressing problems for the environment.

Policies and Strategic Framework

Montenegro approved a National Strategy for Sustainable Development harmonized with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2007. The text integrates the concept of Cleaner Production, but does not mention SCP explicitly.

A National Strategy on Energy Policy has been established, focusing on the rationalisation of energy consumption – major objectives are a 10% reduction of consumption between 2005 and 2010, the reduction of foreign dependence by developing renewable energy sources, and guaranteeing supply to the whole country.

Waste management is included in different policies and strategies, advancing a series of measures already initiated, or planned. However, the initial policies have been focused on the most critical points, leaving an overall restructuring of the system for the future.

Other measures planned are the adoption of a National Strategy for the Integrated Management of Coastal Areas, to launch a national plan to eliminate substances harmful to the ozone layer and the reinforcement of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Legal and Regulatory Framework

Government priorities are the effective implementation of the IPPC EU Directive, the reinforcement of economic instruments based on the "polluter pays" principle, the establishment of environmental management systems, the encouragement of cleaner technologies and the rational use of natural resources.

The government will promote a monitoring and auditing system for energy consumption, based on the EUROSTAT system.

On a local level, credit lines for improving energy efficiency are developed and the SME Development Strategy in Montenegro includes policy reinforcement and assistance to SMEs oriented at favouring cleaner production measures.

No initiatives related to Sustainable Public Procurement are in place.

Greening Industry and Society

The concept of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is very new in Montenegro. As in other countries in the region most companies and institutions associate CSR with donations or social work, without any real knowledge of the actual concept. In some cases it was related to practices such as transparency, or business ethics, but without including the protection of the environment.

A project developed by the Directorate for Development of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises includes establishing a resource centre, regular publications, organising activities to introduce CSR, and creating an award for "Socially Responsible" companies.

The Centre for Development of NGOs (CRNVO) is considered a spearhead for CSR in Montenegro and has developed several promotional projects and studies.

Main Actors and Projects

The creation of a National Centre for Cleaner Production was approved a few years ago but has not yet been launched.

In addition to the governmental actors, the Montenegrin Employers Federation (EMF), alongside a number of international organizations such as KfW or UNIDO encourage the responsible management of resources.

In the Skadar Lake area a project has been launched in cooperation with the Albanian government aimed at the creation of a protected ecosystem aimed to solve the current problems of pollution and the intensive use of natural resources.











