



European Presidents' Conference 2025

Country Report of the Bar Association of Montenegro for 2024

The annual country report of the Bar Association of Montenegro gives an overview of major activities and challenges that impacted the functioning of the legal profession in Montenegro in 2024. It also provides statistics on the number of lawyers and trainees that were admitted to the Bar Association of Montenegro.

Adoption of the new Lawyers' Tariff

The Bar Association of Montenegro initiated the procedure of adopting a new Lawyers' tariff, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, due to the need to adjust the prescribed remuneration for the work of lawyers to the current social circumstances, given that the current tariff dates from 2017. This procedure is ongoing and we hope for the quick finalization of the negotiations with the Government.

Participation in public debates and working groups

The Bar Association of Montenegro participated in the public debate for the adoption of the Fiscal Strategy of the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro, within the "Europe Now 2" program. On that occasion, the Bar Association reacted, among other things, with regard to the prescribed salary for university graduates, which is set at a high level by the relevant Strategy, so trainees, who are included in this category, must have a salary that employers - lawyers cannot realize in a way that does not jeopardize their business.

In this sense, the Bar is of the opinion that the employment of trainees, which is primarily aimed at acquiring the knowledge of students who have just graduated from the Faculty of Law, is threatened, because it limits lawyers from being able to hire trainees, precisely because of the significant increase in their earnings, and that this will greatly affect the outflow of trainees from the legal profession.

Considering that the Bar's suggestions were not adopted, the Managing Board of the Bar Association of Montenegro made a decision on the registration fee to the Bar Association of Montenegro Register of Lawyers, which enabled the trainee, after completing the internship with a lawyer, to be registered in the Bar's Register of Lawyers

under more favorable conditions, compared to other graduated lawyers, in terms of the registration fee, in such a way that it was set at 30% of the entire amount of the registration fee.

The Bar Association of Montenegro has its representatives in the working groups of the Ministry of Justice that work on amendments to existing laws, namely: the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code, the Law on Arbitration, the Law on Criminal Procedure, the Law on Confiscation of Assets Gained from Criminal Activity, the Law on Alternative Dispute Resolution, as well as the Strategy for Realizing the Rights of Victims of Crime.

Lawyers training

The Bar Association of Montenegro continued its cooperation with the Center for Training in the Judiciary and the State Prosecution, in which Bar has a member of the Management Board.

In the reporting period, several round tables and trainings were organized by the Center for Training in Judiciary and Prosecution, the UNHCR office, as well as the Council of Europe office, on various current topics (Right to free legal aid, Law on free access to information, Use of encrypted communication in the context of criminal proceedings, Plea agreement, Providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking, dealing with children who are victims and witnesses of violence in accordance with child-friendly justice, Statelessness, Asylum), in which members of the Bar took part.

Fiscalization

The Managing Board continued its activities in finding the optimal solution in connection with the application of the Law on Fiscalization in the Trade of Goods and Services in the legal profession. In this context, several meetings were held with the Minister of Finance of Montenegro, where we encountered understanding and openness to cooperation, with a claim that the Government also shares the interest in finding a permanent solution to this issue.

During the conversation, particular attention was paid to the specifics of the legal profession and the need for a more flexible approach, in order to ensure that the application of the law does not jeopardize the work of lawyers and the quality of providing the legal aid. Despite the complexity of this issue, we believe that with a joint effort we will find a solution that will respect the interests of all involved parties.

Expansion of the capacity of the Bar Association of Montenegro

The Bar Association of Montenegro, keeping in mind the desire to maintain and improve its regular operations, through the work of its bodies, various commissions, working groups, for the purposes of organizing meetings with representatives of domestic and international organizations, as well as due to the need to organize continuous seminars and trainings for lawyers, successfully completed the purchase of a new office space.

We are sure that in this way, better working conditions will be made possible, which will improve the efficiency of the work of the Bar. We believe that adaptation the office space to the Bar's needs will contribute not only to a better organization of work, but will also have a positive effect on the Bar's professional image.

Cooperation of the Bar Association of Montenegro with institutions

The Bar held a series of meetings with representatives of domestic and international organizations, state bodies, ministries and other institutions, within the strategic goal of connecting with relevant institutions. These meetings enabled the exchange of experiences, the identification of challenges and the development of cooperation, which significantly improved the position of the legal profession in the judicial system of Montenegro. Also, through cooperation with international organizations, the Bar Association of Montenegro worked on adopting the best practices in the field of law and improving professional standards. Representatives of the Bar actively participated in numerous gatherings, round tables and working groups, with a special focus on the processes of amending legislation, through engagement in working groups. The Bar made concrete proposals for the improvement of legal solutions that directly affect the work of lawyers and the judicial system. In this way, the Bar Association of Montenegro contributed to ensuring a fairer, more efficient and transparent judicial framework.

Statistical data on the number of lawyers and trainees in Montenegro

On 31 December 2024 there were a total of 1055 lawyers admitted to the Bar Association of Montenegro Register of Lawyers and 135 trainees admitted to the Bar Association of Montenegro Register of Trainees. It indicates that it is still an increase in the number of lawyers in Montenegro and decrease in the number of trainees.



**BAR ASSOCIATION OF MONTENEGRO
PRESIDENT**

Danilo Mićović, attorney-at-law

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