MONTENEGRO STATISTICAL OFFICE

METHODOLOGY

Primary education statistics

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PRIMARY EDUCATION STATISTICS

The legal basis

The legal basis for the implementation statistical surveys in the area of primary education statistics is the Law on Official Statistics and Official Statistical System of Montenegro (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 18/12, 47/19 and 23/25).

METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES

Purpose of survey

Statistics on primary education collect, process, and disseminate data on the status, structure, and development of schools and classes, the structure of primary school pupils, educational outcomes, and the teaching staff implementing the primary education programme.

Primary education is an integral part of the unified education system. It is organised as regular primary education and includes the education of children with special educational needs, as well as adult education.

Data sources and coverage

Data on primary education are the result of the statistical processing of the database maintained by the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MEIS).

The statistical survey covers all licensed primary schools in the territory of Montenegro, resource centres operating in accordance with programmes approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, and the primary school for adult education.

Data on adult education are obtained through the regular annual statistical survey conducted at the beginning and the end of the school year, based on questionnaires completed by the reporting unit (the primary school for adult education).

The data are collected for the entire territory of Montenegro, at the municipal level where primary education institutions are located.

Data confidentiality

Pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement concluded between the Statistical Office and the Ministry of Education, the data submitted to the Statistical Office do not contain any information that would enable the identification of individuals.

The data obtained are used exclusively for statistical purposes. They are aggregated according to the relevant classification levels and published only in aggregated form.

Definitions

Primary education is provided **in primary schools**. It is compulsory and free of charge for all children aged 6 to 15. Primary education lasts nine years and is organized as regular education, including the education of children with special educational needs and adult education.

For statistical purposes, each incomplete primary school (providing four, five or six grades) and each complete nine-grade primary school is considered a separate school unit, even when it is organizationally linked to a central primary school under the same administration or principal but is geographically separate from the central school.

A school for the education of children with special educational needs is an institution that provides primary education for children with special educational needs in accordance with the law.

A school for adult primary education is an institution that provides primary education programmes for adults in accordance with the law. Adult primary education schools also include adult education classes operating under the same administration as regular primary schools of the same type.

The school year is the period during which regular teaching and other educational activities are carried out.

For statistical purposes, **a school** is defined as a group of pupils organized as a single school unit, with one or more teachers providing instruction according to a prescribed curriculum, regardless of whether the school is an independent institution, a branch school, or a unit attached to another type of school. Geographically separate units that are part of a primary school are also regarded as schools.

A class is a group of pupils taught together in the same classroom during the school year by one or more teachers. Depending on its composition, a class may be:

single-grade, comprising pupils from one grade only; or combined-grade, comprising pupils from two or more grades.

A grade is a stage of education during which pupils acquire the knowledge and competencies prescribed by the curriculum within a specified period, normally one school year. The relationship between pupils, classes, and grades may vary. Pupils in the same grade may be divided into two or more classes when enrolment is high. Conversely, pupils from two or more grades may be taught together in a combined-grade class. Pupils from one grade may also constitute a single class.

A completed grade is a grade successfully passed, entitling the pupil to progress to the next grade. A pupil completes primary education upon successfully completing Grade 9.

A regular pupil is a person enrolled in school for the purpose of attending regular instruction. A child acquires pupil status upon enrolment in the first grade of primary school.

A repeating pupil is a pupil who enrols in the same grade for a second or subsequent time. A pupil is required to repeat a grade if, at the end of the school year, they receive failing marks in more than the permitted number of subjects (in accordance with the regulations governing that type of school) or fail to pass a remedial or grade examination.

Children with special educational needs include children with physical, intellectual, or sensory disabilities; behavioural disorders; severe chronic illnesses; emotional disorders; multiple disabilities; children with long-term illnesses; and other children experiencing learning difficulties who require education under an adapted curriculum with additional professional support or under a special education or educational programme.

Adult education enables adults to acquire or complete general education that they did not obtain during the regular school-age period. Primary education for persons over the age of 15 is provided in accordance with the legislation governing adult education.

Representativeness of the data

Data are collected for the entire territory of Montenegro, at the level of municipalities where (public and private) primary school institutions are located.

Harmonization with EU regulations

The survey on statistics of education and lifelong learning is harmonized with the regulation http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/education-and-training/legislation.

National classification of education (aligned with the International Standard Classification of Education - ISCED 2011).

The International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) is a framework that enables standardized reporting of a wide range of relevant education statistics in accordance with an

internationally accepted set of common definitions and concepts, ensuring international comparability of the obtained indicators.

Organization of survey

The Statistical Office of Montenegro, through its Department of Education, Culture and Justice Statistics, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation participate in the preparation and implementation of the statistical survey. The Ministry provides the database on primary education (MEIS), which serves as the source of data for the survey.

Instruments of survey

- Reception of the MEIS database - enrolment of students in primary education with a balance of 30 September of the school year, and the end of the school year with the balance on August 31 of the school year. The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation delivers the database at the end of November;
- Tabulation, control (logical and computational), creation of results – January, February;
- Drafting of the announcement – March
- Drafting of announcements for adult education – December

Dissemination

The data are disseminated through statistical releases and statistical publications, including the Statistical Yearbook, Women and Men in Montenegro, and Montenegro in Figures.

The data are also published in electronic format on the website of the Statistical Office of Montenegro.