

Suggested written statements for Montenegro at RC75

30 October, Thursday, 15:30–16:00h Progress reports

High-level short technical briefing: Roadmap of actions to strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in the European Region 2015–2025 (EUR/RC65/R4)

Report on the implementation of activities from the Action plan of the tobacco products control program in Montenegro from 2023 to 2025

ESPAD research, from 2024 in Montenegro, showed that:

About 14% of 16-year-olds declared themselves as users of tobacco products. In addition, 12.8% of students smoked their first cigarette at the age of 14/15 (at the end of elementary school). At an early age (before the age of 13), and 11% of them did so at an early age (up to the age of 13), while 6% of students started smoking daily at the age of 14/15, and at an early age (before the age of 13) 2.1% of them started smoking. The percentage of students who have tried e-cigarettes is below 33%, which is lower than the European average, with more girls experimenting with e-cigarettes (46%) compared to boys (41%). Early use of e-cigarettes (before the age of 13) was recorded by 16% of students in Europe, while in Montenegro that percentage is 7.4%. As many as 60% of students believe that e-cigarettes can be obtained easily or very easily.

SHORT REPORT:

The multisectoral National Commission for Tobacco Control was established on May 25, 2025, but the replenishment of its members continued in October 2025. During the previous period, an activity was carried out related to the drafting of proposals for amendments/amendments to the Law on Limiting the Use of Tobacco Products (coordinated by the Ministry of Health). During the preparation of the document, collaborators from health and other institutions were involved. In addition, attendance was achieved at all meetings with WHO consultants (some of them were organized in Montenegro). Also, workshops were held in school institutions on the topic of presenting the health hazards of using tobacco and related products. Workshops have been implemented for particularly sensitive categories of the population, such as women members of the Roma population. The workshops were coordinated and organized by professionals in the field of public health from the Institute of Public Health, as well as students of the Faculty of Medicine of the UCG. The mentioned workshops are continuously implemented during the entire period for which the AP is defined.

A program is being prepared for the establishment of services for quitting tobacco use for sensitive categories of the population (pregnant women), but the activities will be extended to other categories (women, young people, elderly etc). The plan is also to revise the services that exist in counselling centres for young people in health centres.

Preparations were made (a proposal was presented to the Council of the Faculty of Medicine of the UCG) to enrich the existing teaching curricula with topics related to tobacco control, because it is about the education of future health service providers, who are expected to adopt behaviour that is consistent with health and to promote the same in the community in which they operate. In the practice so far, the students had the opportunity to get to know each other about all tobacco control activities that are carried out in Montenegro.

In addition to the above, information and communication activities for the public and the media were continuously implemented, although without an existing activity plan, but cooperation with all media in Montenegro was achieved. The media's extraordinary commitment to tobacco control issues has been demonstrated.

In 2024, an ESPAD survey was conducted, which included a survey of the prevalence of the use of tobacco and related products (as well as other psychoactive substances).

"The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) reporting questionnaire from 2025 Reporting Cycle has been completed, by coordinating the answers provided by institutions and organizations involved in tobacco control.".