

## TRENDS OF AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN MONTENEGRO

Aleksandra Martinovic<sup>1\*</sup>, Darko Konjevic<sup>1</sup>, Jovana Drobnjak<sup>1</sup>, Vesna Boljevic<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Faculty of Food Technology, Food Safety and Ecology, University of Donja Gorica, Oktoih 1, 81 000 Podgorica, Montenegro

<sup>2</sup>Directorate for Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Rimski trg 1, 81 000 Podgorica, Montenegro

\*e-mail: [aleksandra.martinovic@udg.edu.me](mailto:aleksandra.martinovic@udg.edu.me)

### Abstract

Montenegro's economy is predominantly services-based. Most consumption goods are imported, while industrial output has been dominated by alumina and steel production. Agriculture is one of the most important sectors in Montenegro and is a significant source of employment and income for some of the most vulnerable segments of society.

In Montenegro, agriculture with tourism and energy is a major strategic development branch. About 37% of Montenegro's population lives in the rural areas and it is assumed that about 70% of the total income of these people is realized through agricultural activities. One of the structural characteristics of Montenegrin food production is higher share of agriculture in gross domestic product than of the food-processing sector. This indicates a low level of finalization of agricultural products, a significant share of subsistence food of the rural population, as well as the marketing of agricultural products through unregistered trade channels. The existing support to the agricultural sector in Montenegro is realized through annual Agro-budget. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), as one of the most important EU policies, envisages approximately 500 regulations governing the management of agriculture and it can be said that in a number of areas, Montenegro complies. However, there are many more areas where it is necessary to adopt a number of laws and by-laws in accordance with which they will be carried out gradually harmonization with the EU acquis in this field.

Measures aimed at the development of rural economy and creating new jobs and improving the quality of life in the rural areas of Montenegro, with the appropriate investment support to the agricultural sector, will contribute to achieving of harmonized territorial development of rural areas. It is necessary to emphasize the innovative component that includes fostering of the research and development sector and improving the innovation potential in the country.

**Key words:** *Common Agricultural policy of the EU, Montenegrin Agriculture indicators, Strategy for the development of Agriculture and rural areas in Montenegro.*