



14th MEETING OF THE EU – MONTENEGRO CIVIL SOCIETY JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

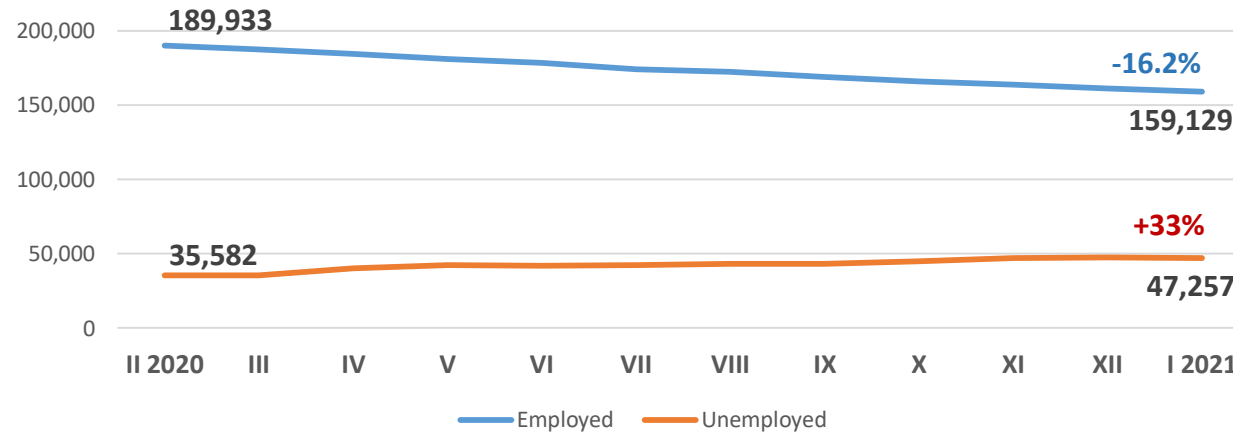
AN OVERVIEW OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION IN MONTENEGRO: INTRODUCTION

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ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

LABOUR MARKET: II 2020 - II 2021

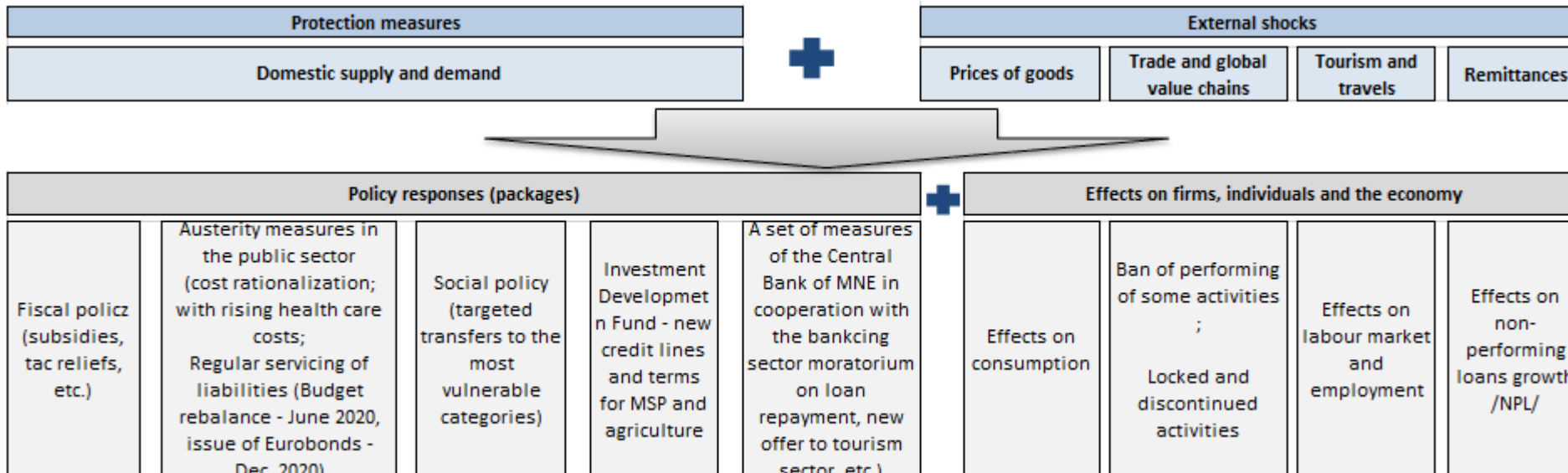


The decline of Montenegro's economy in 2020 is estimated at **14.9%** (WB) or at **14.3%** (EC Winter forecast, February 2021).

WB forecast for 2021 and 2021 – 6.1 and 3.9% respectively.

EC forecast for 2021 and 2022 – 6.8 and 3.7% respectively.

The outlook remains highly uncertain, however, and growth could be weaker than envisioned if the pandemic takes longer than expected to fade, external financing conditions tighten, or geopolitical tensions escalate again. The relations between the countries in the region are also very important, especially bilateral relations with Serbia.

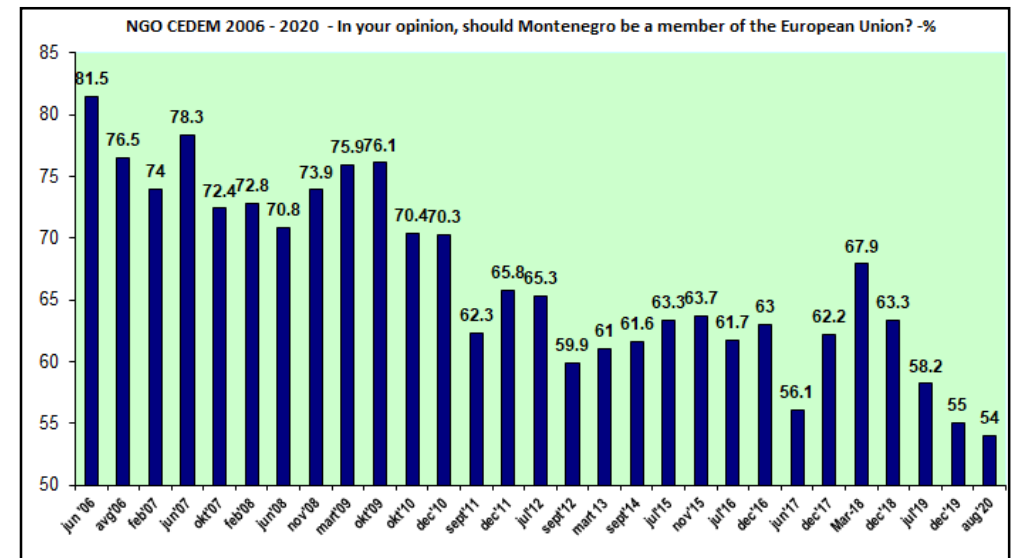


I & II package – 320 mil EUR or 7% of GDP

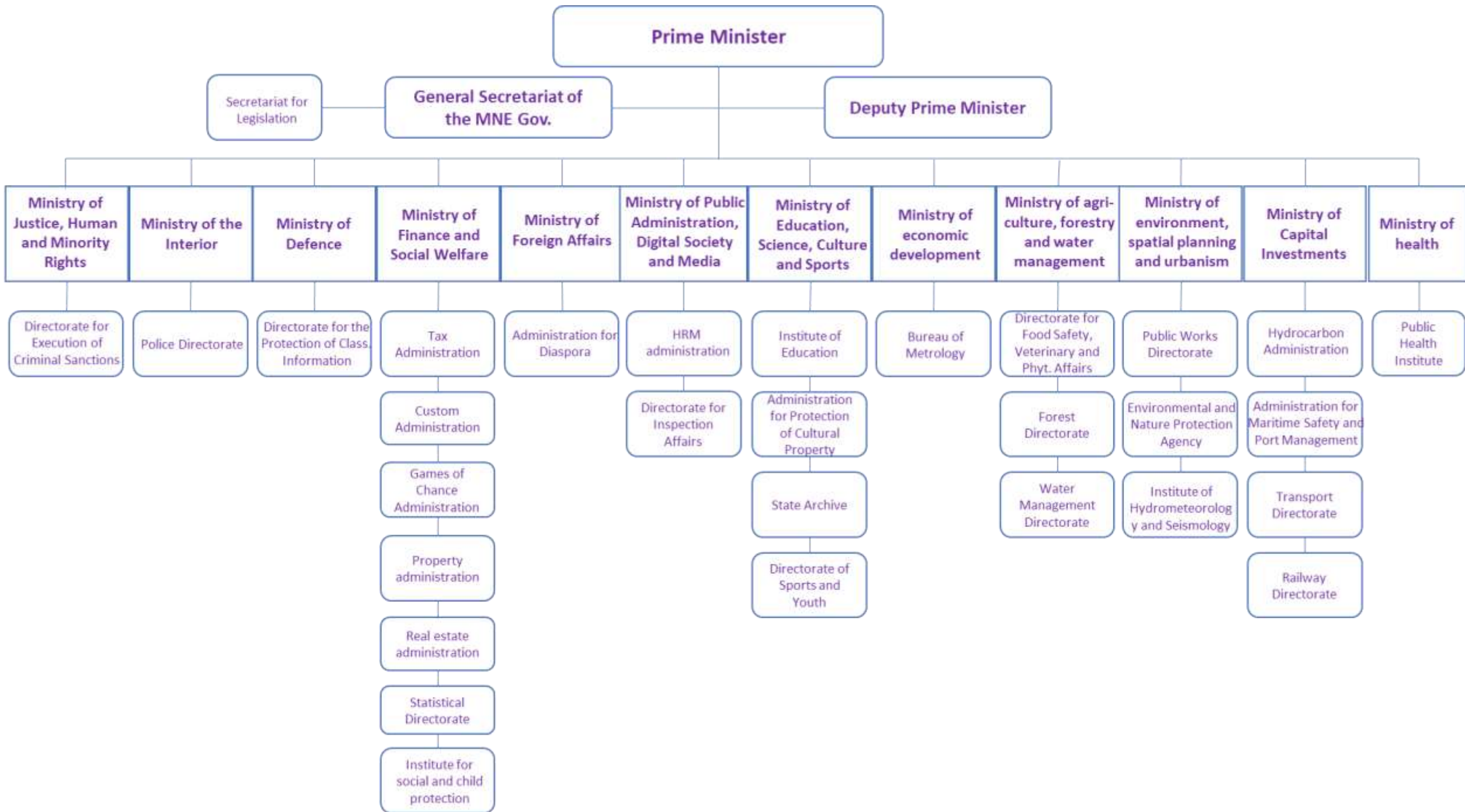
III package – cca 6% of GDP (short measures)

New package 2021 – 163 mil , or cca 4% (4.4bn..)

POLITICAL CONTEXT



- Parliamentary elections on 30 August 2020 – changes
- The agreement of basic principle on 9 September 2020 – the same foreign policy priorities
- Parliament on 23 September 2020, Government on 4 December 2020
- Issuing of a **€750mn Eurobonds** on 7 december 2020 („*We secretly borrowed..*“)
- Significant changes of the organisational structure (HRM issues instead of policy development)
- **Strategic acts missing:** Annual Government Plan, Law on Budget 2021, Programme of accession 2021-2022, ERP 2021-2023 (submitted by other Candidates), Systematisation acts of new ministries, etc.
- MEPs as **proposers of a strategic laws** without regular procedures of public consultations and dialogue with the EC - canceled extraordinary session of the Parliament (18/2/2021)

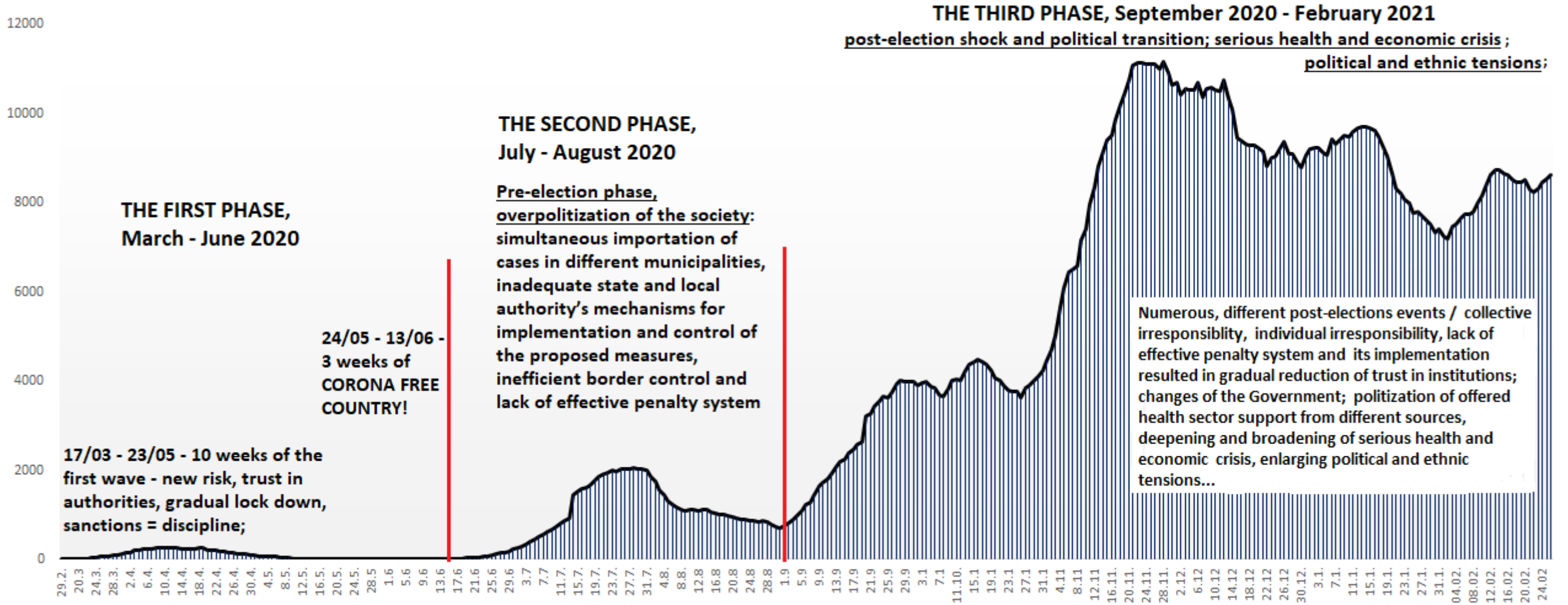


COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND HEALTH CRISIS

- Montenegro – one of the countries with the highest number of infected inhabitants and high mortality rate
- By mid-February, Montenegro is at the top of the list of **countries with the highest number of infected inhabitants as % of total population and without vaccines**. The health care system is under strong pressure.
- There is an obvious **correlation** between the increase in the number of cases infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus, on the one hand, and the decline in discipline, efficiency of inspection services and related sanctions, and the decline in trust in executive institutions, on the other hand.

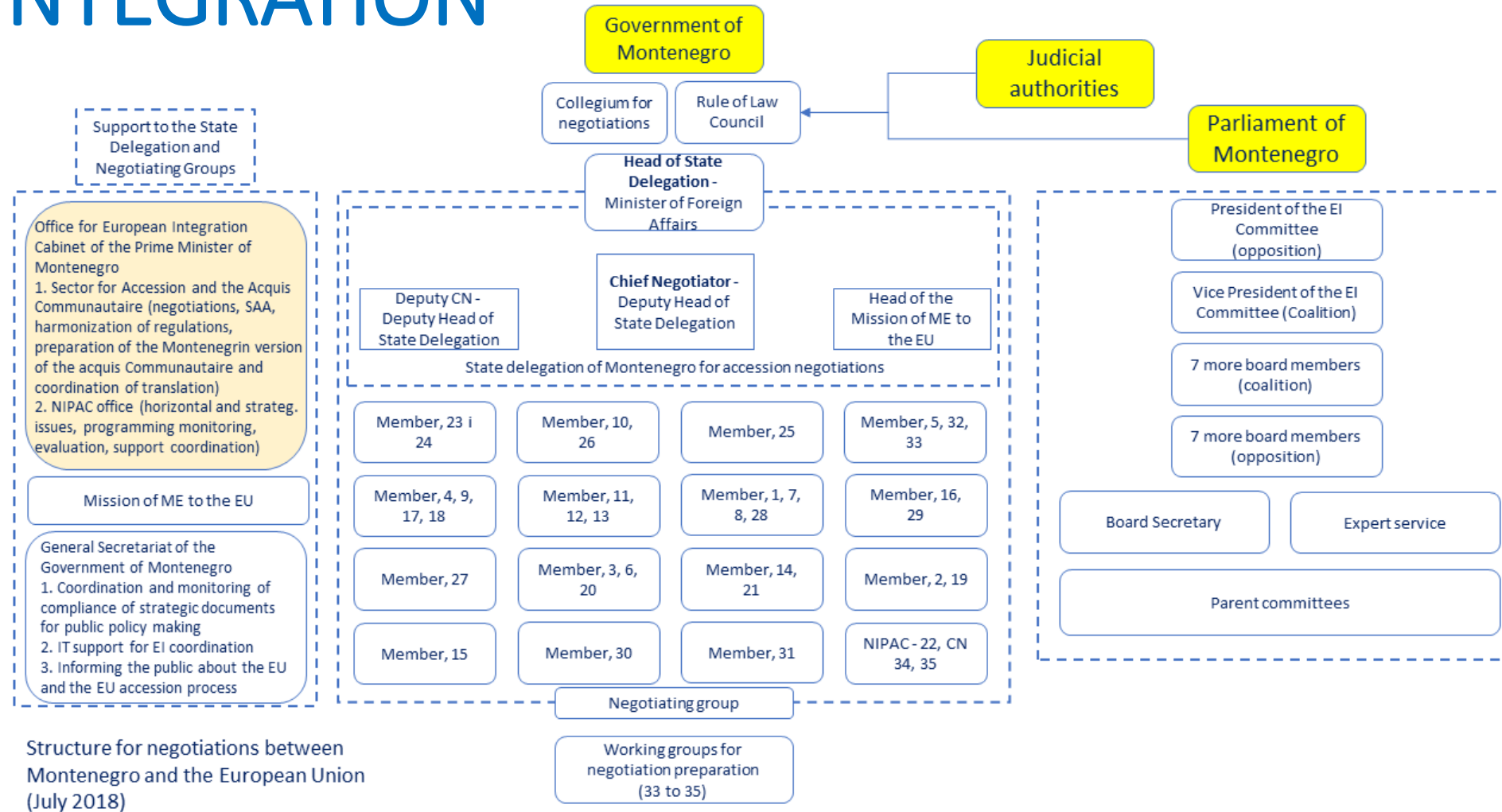
NUMBER OF ACTIVE CASES OF COVID-19

CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES: PERIODIZATION



The Government of Montenegro and all political actors, as well as representatives of civil society, should contribute to not make difference approach to offered assistance to Montenegro - it is necessary to separate politics and health. In a deeply divided Montenegrin society, public health should be a cohesion factor and a precondition for consolidating trust in the executive and the health system, which must be depoliticized.

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION



- Urgent need of consolidation of administrative capacities and working groups within the negotiation structure (significant outflow of expert staff)

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND CSOs

- Law on NGOs, the Council for cooperation with NGOs
- Funding incl. cofinancing of the EU funded projects
- National Erasmus + Office to the Agency
- Civil Society Facility Programme
- Priorities of the Social Council and other interested stakeholders
- Active participation in amending systemic laws

STATE - 2020, EC Report 6.10.2020.

AREAS / CHAPTERS	AL	BA	KS*	ME	MK	RS
Public Administration Reform (PAR)	3	1	2	3	3	3
Economic 1 - capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union	2	1	1	3	3	2
Economic 2 - existence of a functioning market economy	3	1	1	3	4	2
C1. Free movement of goods	3	1	2	3	3	3
C2. Freedom of movement for workers	2	2	3	2	1	3
C3. Right to establishment and freedom to provide services	3	1	3	3	3	3
C4. Free movement of capital	3	3	2	3	3	3
C5. Public procurement	3	2	2.5	3	3	3
C6. Company law	3	2	2	4	4	4
C7. Intellectual property law	2	3	2	4	3	4
C8. Competition policy	2.5	2	1.5	3	3	3
C9. Financial services	3	2.5	3	3	3	3
C10. Information society and media	3	1	2	3	3	3
C11. Agriculture and rural development	2	1	2	3	3	2
C12. Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy	2	2	2	3	4	3
C13. Fisheries	1	1	1	2	3	3
C14. Transport policy	2	2	1.5	3.5	3	4
C15. Energy	3	1	2	4	3	3
C16. Taxation	3	2	2	3	3	3
C17. Economic and monetary union	3	1	2	3	3	3
C18. Statistics	3	1	n.a	3	3	3
C19. Social policy and employment	2	2	1	2	3	3
C20. Entrepreneurship and industrial policy	3	1	3	3.5	3	3
C21. Trans-European networks	2	2	2	3.5	4	3
C22. Regional policy and coordination of structural instruments	3	1	n.a	3	3	3
C23. Justice and fundamental rights	2.5	2	1.5	3	2.5	2
Judiciary	2.5	1.5	1	3	2.5	2
Anticorruption	2	1.5	1.5	2	2.5	2
Freedom of expression	2.5	2	2	2	2.5	2
C24. Justice, freedom and security	2.5	2	1.5	3	3	2
Fight against organised crime	2	1.5	1	2.5	2	2
C25. Science and research	1	2	1	4	4	4
C26. Education and culture	3	1	1	4	4	4
C27. Environment and climate action	2	1.5	1	2	2	2
C28. Consumer and health protection	1	1	1	3	3	3
C29. Custom union	3	2	3	3	4	4
C30. External relations	3	2	1	4	3	3
C31. Foreign, security and defence policy	4	2	n.a.	4	3	3
C32. Financial control	3	1	2	3	3	3
C33. Financial and budgetary provisions	2	1	n.a.	1	1	2
	2.54	1.58	1.83	3.07	3.04	2.97
	2.49	1.58	1.78	3.06	3.06	3.01

