



Montenegro MUNICIPALITY OF BAR

BAR MUNICIPALITY IN BRIEF

GEOGRAPHIC POSITION:

The Municipality of Bar is one of 21 Montenegrin municipalities. It has a favourable geographical position: situated in the southern part of the country, Bar represents a marine gateway to Montenegro and an important economic centre. It covers an area of 505 km².

Bar has 43 000 inhabitants and it is 4th most populated municipality in Montenegro. However, over the summer tourist season the population more than doubles.

Thanks to its favourable geographic position and the fact that it is situated between two large water surfaces (Adriatic Sea and Lake Skadar), Bar has mild Mediterranean climate with over 280 sunny days per year and average yearly temperature of 16,5°C.

ECONOMY:

Tourism is the priority economic sector, since there are excellent resources for development of this industry: it includes 45 km of Adriatic coast, 9.5 km of which are sandy beaches; 67 km of Lake Skadar's shore, a rich cultural heritage and good sports facilities.

There are 7000 beds in hotels and hostels and circa 25.000 beds in private accommodation. In 2011 over 140.000 tourists visited Bar and made over 1.100.000 overnights.

Transportation is also among priority economic sectors: the port of Bar was one of the biggest sea ports of the former Yugoslavia, and is the major Montenegrin port nowadays. Within the port there is a free zone and the Municipality and the Port of Bar are offering favourable conditions for investors interested in opening of environmentally friendly production facilities within the free zone.

Bar has very good railway and road connections with the hinterland and the neighbouring countries – there is a railway road connecting Bar to Belgrade, and roads connecting Bar with Albania, Bosnia Croatia and Serbia.

A ferry line has been connecting Bar with Italy, i.e. with Bari and Ancona, for almost 50 years.

Agriculture is the third priority economic sector – it is mainly Mediterranean fruit production and vine production. Olives and olive oils are traditional products, and its quality is well known in the region. Municipality is committed to stimulating agriculture production in different ways.

In terms of Montenegrin size, large number of companies is operating in Bar: 2085 companies, i.e. almost 10% of the total number of companies in Montenegro are registered here.

The local government of Bar is committed to creating business enabling environment – in cooperation with IFC we implemented a guillotine review of regulations, and afterwards we developed eMunicipality information system to enable more efficient, responsive and accountable administration. Bar is known in Montenegro to have the lowest taxes for business operations.

INFRASTRUCTURE:

This local government considers communal infrastructure and spatial and urban plans as the necessary precondition for the development. In the past six years the Municipality, together with the state institution, invested over 120.000.000€ in infrastructure development.

There are two important infrastructure projects to be completed over the next month: regional sanitary landfill for the municipalities of Bar and Ulcinj and 2km long boulevard at the entrance in Bar.

The Municipality has planned for the next period to invest in further development of the infrastructure: waste water treatment plants, sewage and water supply secondary networks, recycling centre, roads, swimming pool etc.

EDUCATION:

There are 10 elementary schools, three high schools and a music school in Bar. As far as higher education is concerned, Bar is becoming a university centre: Montenegro Tourism School, Business Management Faculty, Faculty for Business Economy, Faculty of Agriculture – Department of Mediterranean Fruit Growing are situated in Bar. A Maritime Faculty is to start operating in September.

CULTURE:

Like most Montenegrin towns, throughout its history Bar has belonged to various civilizations and cultures. What makes it stand out among Montenegrin towns today is that it is representative of several of the cultures that it belongs to, and in some cases had belonged to for centuries. As a long-lasting melting-pot of different confessions and nations, Bar represents a mix of modernity, tradition and beauty. It is an important and dynamic economic centre within Montenegro, but is also a town of rich cultural and historical tradition. Some of the highest achievements of Montenegro's civilization originated in Bar. The oldest written documents and the most important work of medieval Montenegrin literature and history can be found here. The town also served as the seat of the oldest religious

institution of Montenegro (the Bar archbishopric). One of the world's oldest olive trees grows here, the Old Olive of Mirovica, which is more than 2000 years old.

The Old Town of Bar represents a part of the most important cultural heritage of Montenegro. It is possibly one of the rare uninhabited places which can justly be called the medieval Pompeii of Europe, and possibly the greatest archaeological site within walls in Europe.

Bar is a host of many international cultural events – in a month the 25th summer festival “Barski ljetopis” will gather poets, painters, artists, musicians, actors from the region. Bar also hosts the International TV Festival, recognized as a manifestation of particular importance for Montenegro. We are also organizing very popular cultural-folk-agricultural events like “Days of lives” and “Days of wine and bleaks” visited thousands of people from all over the region.

SPORTS

Bar is known as a city of youth and sports. Many Bar sports club are competing in national league and international competitions.

A world champion in high jump for girls under 18 is from Bar.

Having very good sports facilities and mild climate Bar is often chosen as a venue for international competitions and training of athletes.

We have recently hosted the Mediterranean Handball Championship for men U16, European Basketball Championship for men U16 and European Cup Winter Throwing. This month we will host the European Judo Championship for Men and Women U16, and in August we will be the host of the World handball Championship for Women U16.