

# Bosnia and Herzegovina

## *Ethnicity in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

### *Group selection*

The demographic data for 1992-1995 are from the 1991 Census and include information from before the war. The preliminary results of Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2013 census state an ethnic composition of 48.4% **Bosniaks/Muslims**, 32.7% **Serbs** and 14.6% **Croats**. No results were released for the **Roma** population (<sup>454</sup>).

<sup>454</sup> [European Parliament Research Service, 2014]

### *Power relations*

#### *1992-1995*

During the civil war, Bosnia and Herzegovina was broken apart into three parts, separatist Republika Srpska, the Croatian state of Herzegovina, and the Muslim Bosniak central government. Therefore the Serbs are coded as having separatist autonomy, the Bosniaks as senior partner and the Croats as junior partner. In 1994, the Muslim-Croat Federation was formed, which stopped the fighting between these two sides. The Dayton 1995 agreement ended the Bosnian civil war.

#### *1996-2017*

The Dayton Accord established a system of consociationalism. The Presidency rotates between representatives of the three ethnic groups - Bosniaks, Serbs, Croats - and similarly the Parliament and Constitutional Court have precisely determined shares of seats guaranteed to each ethnic group. Thus, all three groups are labeled "senior partners". The building of a common state for the two warring sides ended the fighting, but did not really lead to a stable "nation-state". It is more like a loose ethnic confederation which - while ostensibly ruled by a central, multi-ethnic government under a rotating presidency - is in fact held together largely by its status as an EU protectorate ruled by the High Representative. Each ethnic group is dominant in its traditional areas, especially as a result of the massive ethnic expulsions that occurred during the war.

Both governments formed in the meantime show this loose consociationalist character, but also the degree of political procedure that still needs to be worked out. On 28 December 2011, fifteen months after the October 2010 parliamentary elections, leaders of the main political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina - the Social Democratic

Party (SDP), the Union of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD), the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), its sister party HDZ 1990, and the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) - reached an agreement to form a state level government. The government consists of ten ministers, four Bosniaks, three Serbs and three Croats, thus there were no changes in the power states of the ethnic groups <sup>(455)</sup>. The Tuzla Canton is the first in Bosnia and Herzegovina to receive a new government since the mass protests that started in February 2014 forced four cantonal governments to resign <sup>(456)</sup>. After the parliamentary elections in 2014, it again took the country some months to form the new government (until April 2015). Again, however, all three ethnic groups are represented equally in the government.

The Roma are discriminated, because many “Roma lack birth certificates, identification cards, or a registered residence, preventing them from access to health care and public education services or registering to vote” <sup>(457)</sup>. Roma experience a high level of poverty <sup>(458)</sup>. In recent years, the number of Roma without identity documents decreased and their access to housing improved, however only marginally and insufficiently, which is why they are considered “discriminated” throughout. Furthermore, the National Strategy on Roma Integration ended by the end of 2016 without achieving its goals.

<sup>455</sup> [European Forum, 2014a]

<sup>456</sup> [European Forum, 2014b]

<sup>457</sup> [U.S. State Department, 2006 – 2009]

<sup>458</sup> [Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, 2010]

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## *Political status of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

*From 1992 until 1995*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Bosniaks/Muslims	0.437	SENIOR PARTNER
Serbs	0.313	SELF-EXCLUSION
Croats	0.173	JUNIOR PARTNER
Roma	0.01	DISCRIMINATED

*From 1996 until 2017*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Bosniaks/Muslims	0.501	SENIOR PARTNER
Serbs	0.308	SENIOR PARTNER
Croats	0.154	SENIOR PARTNER
Roma	0.01	DISCRIMINATED



Figure 84: Political status of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1992-1995.



Figure 85: Political status of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1996-2017.

## *Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

*From 1992 until 1995*

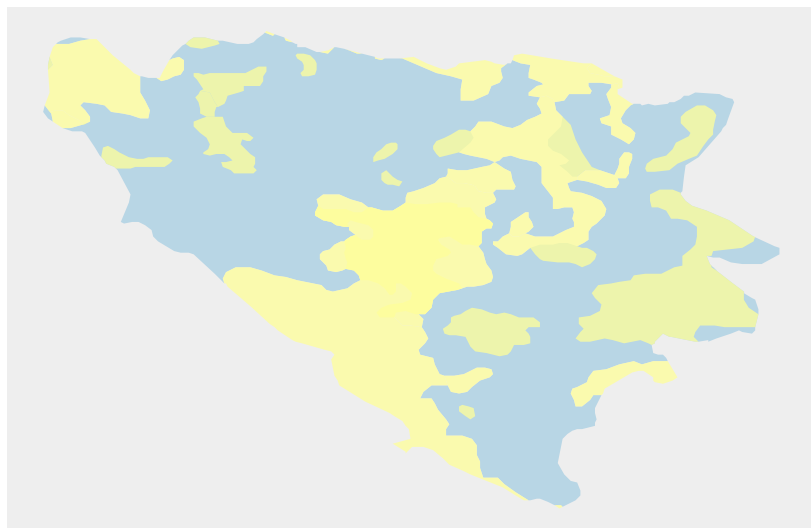


Figure 86: Map of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1992-1995.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■ Serbs	36 147	Regionally based
■ Bosniaks/Muslims	14 547	Regionally based
■ Croats	10 257	Regionally based
Roma		Dispersed

Table 28: List of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1992-1995.

*From 1996 until 2017*

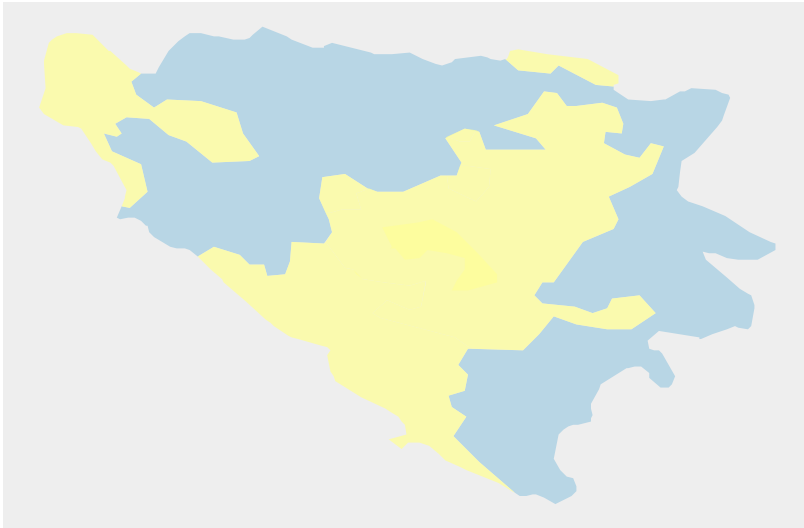


Figure 87: Map of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1996-2017.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■ Serbs	28 417	Regionally based
■ Bosniaks/Muslims	15 417	Regionally based
■ Croats	8 583	Regionally based
Roma		Dispersed

Table 29: List of ethnic groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 1996-2017.

## *Conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

*Starting on 1992-04-26*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Serbian irregulars	Serbs	1992-04-26	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Serbs	1992-04-26	Explicit	Yes	Yes

*Starting on 1993-01-12*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Croatian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Croats	1993-01-12	Explicit	Yes	Yes
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Croatian irregulars	Croats	1993-05-30	Explicit	No	Yes

*Starting on 1993-07-20*

Side A	Side B	Group name	Start	Claim	Recruitment	Support
Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina	Autonomous Province of Western Bosnia	Bosniaks/Muslims	1993-07-20	No	Yes, from EGIP	Split