

Montenegro

Ethnicity in Montenegro

Power relations

In 2006 Montenegro declared its independence from the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Montenegrins are the demographic and political majority and they are included in the government as senior partner. Serbs are the largest minority in the country. They are represented by the Serbian party (Srpska lista), but Serbs also vote for other parties and approximately 30 percent of the parliament members, from the Serbian and other parties, consider themselves as Serbian (²⁰⁸⁸, 945). Therefore the Serbs are considered as junior partner. Bosniak/Muslims: For the 2003 census the term “Bosniaks” was introduced, but Muslims and Bosniaks are included in one single category, although there is a slight difference between Serbian speaking Muslims and Bosnian speaking Bosniaks. Also Bieber (²⁰⁸⁹, 944) considers Bosniaks and Muslims in Montenegro as a combined ethnic group. The Bosniak party (Bosnjacka stranka) represents the Muslim minority with two parliament members, but Muslims also vote for other parties (²⁰⁹⁰, 949). Five assembly seats were reserved for ethnic Albanians. They, along with ethnic Serbs, Muslims, Bosniaks, and Croats, participated in the political process, and their parties, candidates, and voters participated in all elections (²⁰⁹¹). Nevertheless, the Albanians, the Bosniak/Muslims and the Croats remain politically powerless. Roma are discriminated because they often lack identity documents and therefore, access to basic social services. Prejudice against Roma is widespread, and local authorities often ignore or tacitly condone their intimidation or mistreatment (²⁰⁹²).

Update: 2010 – 2013

The Serbs remain junior partner in Montenegro, while the Bosniaks, Albanians and Croatians are powerless and the Roma continue to be discriminated. Montenegro has one nationwide constituency of 81 seats. Previously, five seats were reserved for a ‘special constituency’ in areas inhabited predominantly by the Albanian minority. These seats were abolished in an amendment to the election law in September 2011. Currently, the Albanians and Croats hold three seats in the parliament, while the Bosniaks hold three seats (²⁰⁹³). Seats are allocated using the d’Hondt method. There is a three percent threshold to gain representation. If none of the lists of a specific minority group achieve a threshold of 3 percent, a lower threshold of 0.7 percent is used (for Croatians, this becomes 0.4 percent)

²⁰⁸⁸ [Bieber, 2010]

²⁰⁸⁹ [Bieber, 2010]

²⁰⁹⁰ [Bieber, 2010]

²⁰⁹¹ [U.S. State Department, 2006-2009]

²⁰⁹² [U.S. State Department, 2006-2009]

²⁰⁹³ [?]

(²⁰⁹⁴). Albanians remain under-represented in public-sector employment; face some exclusion from economic life, and everyday indirect discrimination. While there is education in the Albanian language available at the primary and secondary level, and in some courses at the University of Podgorica, there are too few qualified teachers. Albanian community representatives also complain that even where classes are taught in Albanian, Albanian history and culture are not included in the curricula (²⁰⁹⁵). Roma living in informal settlements, particularly those displaced from Kosovo, continue to face forced evictions by the authorities, and have nowhere to turn. In the July 2006 parliamentary elections there were no Roma candidates, and in all levels of Montenegrin government, there remains only one elected Roma office-holder (²⁰⁹⁶).

²⁰⁹⁴ [Election Guide, 2014]

²⁰⁹⁵ [Minority Rights Group International, 2014a]

²⁰⁹⁶ [Minority Rights Group International, 2014b]

Bibliography

- [Bieber, 2010] Bieber, Florian.(2010). Das politische System Montenegros. In: Ismayer, Wolfgang, Richter, Solveig Soldner, Markus. (eds.). (2010). Die politischen Systeme Osteuropas. Wiesbaden: Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften.
- [CIA, 201] CIA. (2014). The World Fact Book. Europe: Montenegro. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mj.html>
- [Election Guide, 2014] Election Guide. (2014). Montenegro. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: <http://www.electionguide.org/results.php?ID=2058>
- [Minority Rights Group International, 2014a] Minority Rights Group International. (2014a). Albanians in Montenegro. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: <http://www.minorityrights.org/2646/montenegro/albanians.html#sthash.4nOYtdhb.dpuf>
- [Minority Rights Group International, 2014b] Minority Rights Group International. (2014b). Roma in Montenegro. Retrieved on 29.04.2014 from: <http://www.minorityrights.org/2645/montenegro/roma.html#sthash.zTVCGKnk.dpuf>
- [Statistical Office of the Republic of Montenegro, 2003-2011] Statistical Office of the Republic of Montenegro. (2003-2011). Census. Retrieved 2010 from: <http://www.monstat.org/cg/page.php?id=222&pageid=57>. Updated 2011 census results: <http://www.monstat.org/eng/page.php?id=392&pageid=57>.
- [U.S. State Department, 2006-2009] United States State Department. (2006-2009). Country Reports Montenegro. Retrieved 29.04.2014 from: <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/>

Political status of ethnic groups in Montenegro

From 2006 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Montenegrins	0.45	SENIOR PARTNER
Serbs	0.287	JUNIOR PARTNER
Bosniak/Muslims	0.119	POWERLESS
Croats	0.09	POWERLESS
Roma	0.08	DISCRIMINATED
Albanians	0.049	POWERLESS



Figure 506: Political status of ethnic groups in Montenegro during 2006-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Montenegro

From 2006 until 2013

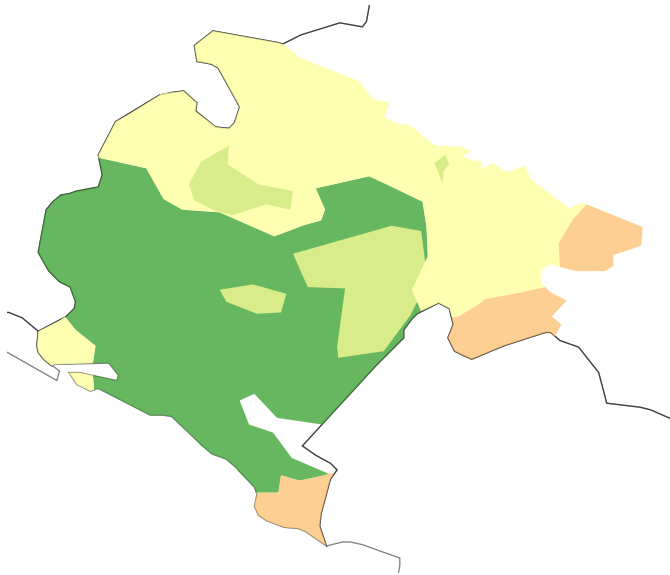


Figure 507: Map of ethnic groups in Montenegro during 2006-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ Montenegrins	7590	Regional & urban
■ Serbs	6496	Regional & urban
■ Bosniak/Muslims	841	Regionally based
■ Albanians	298	Regionally based
■ Croats		Dispersed
■ Roma		Dispersed

Table 152: List of ethnic groups in Montenegro during 2006-2013.