

Montenegro

Ethnicity in Montenegro

Group selection

We identify the following politically relevant ethnic groups: **Albani-ans, Bosniak/Muslims, Croats, Montenegrins, Roma, and Serbs.**

Montenegrins are the demographic majority in the country, whereas Serbs are the largest minority (²⁸⁶⁷, 945). 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 (²⁸⁶⁸, 944) considers Bosniaks and Muslims in Montenegro as a combined ethnic group.

²⁸⁶⁷ [Bieber, 2010]

²⁸⁶⁸ [Bieber, 2010]

Power relations

2008-2016

In 2006, Montenegro declared its independence from the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. Montenegrins are the political majority and they dominate the government. They are mostly represented by the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS).

Serbs are represented by the party alliance Serbian List (Srpska lista), and more recently the Democratic Front, but Serbs also vote for other parties and approximately 30 percent of the parliament members, from the Serbian and other parties, considered themselves as Serbian (²⁸⁶⁹, 945). Yet, as the parties representing the Serbs are in opposition, and thus without governmental influence, Serbs are considered politically powerless according to the EPR coding rules.

²⁸⁶⁹ [Bieber, 2010]

In Montenegro, 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 Croats, this becomes 0.4 percent) (²⁸⁷⁰). The Albanians, the Bosniak/Muslims and the Croats are 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 (²⁸⁷¹).

²⁸⁷⁰ [Election Guide, 2014]

²⁸⁷¹ [U.S. State Department, 2006-2009]

Albanians were 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 (2872).

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 (2873).

After the elections in 2012, a cabinet was again formed with the dominant party, the DPS. The Albanians were not represented in the government during this term, while the Bosniak and the Croat party were both represented, but through a token ministry without portfolio. All of these groups are therefore considered powerless, which makes the Montenegrin the dominant ethnic group. The Serbs still belonged to the opposition, and the Roma were still discriminated (2874, 2875).

2017-

After the elections in 2016, a cabinet was built with Montenegrin representatives as the senior group. The Bosniak Party, the Democratic Union of Albanians as well as the Croatian Civic Initiative are now also represented with ministers in the 20-people cabinet. The Bosniak Party is represented by three ministers, while the Democratic Union of Albanians and the Croatian Civic Initiative hold one seat each. The Croatian minister, however, holds a position without assigned division, which is why the the facto participation is considered meaningless. Therefore, the Croats are coded powerless, while the Bosniak and the Albanians are coded junior partners. The Serbian minority is the only group not being represented in the cabinet, but still being part of the opposition (2876, 2877). They are therefore considered powerless.

Even though being politically included, the minority groups complain that they are not represented enough on the national level. Albanians and Bosniaks in the North and the South of the country, for example, claimed that the national policy intentionally discriminates them economically so that they would leave the country in search for economic opportunities (2878). Still, these issues cannot be interpreted as political discrimination, as is faced by the Roma. According to UNHCR, there were more than 3'000 stateless persons, mostly Roma, Ashkali and Balkan Egyptians in the country in 2015. A lack of birth and registration documentation keeps these people from gaining nationality and access to social services (2879).

²⁸⁷² [Minority Rights Group International, 2014a]

²⁸⁷³ [Minority Rights Group International, 2014b]

²⁸⁷⁴ [CIA, 2013]

²⁸⁷⁵ [?]

²⁸⁷⁶ [Konrad Adenauer Stiftung e.V., 2016]

²⁸⁷⁷ [CIA, 2017]

²⁸⁷⁸ [Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor]

²⁸⁷⁹ [Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Montenegro

From 2006 until 2016

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

From 2017 until 2017

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

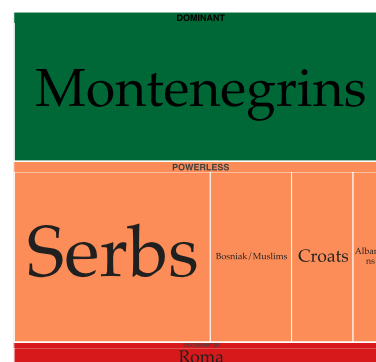


Figure 598: Political status of ethnic groups in Montenegro during 2006-2016.

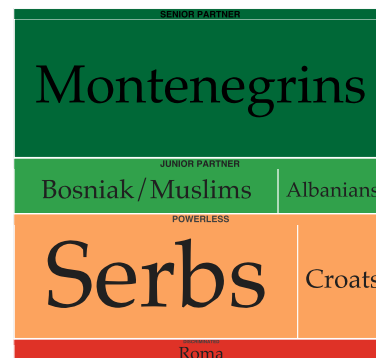


Figure 599: Political status of ethnic groups in Montenegro during 2017-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Montenegro

From 2006 until 2017

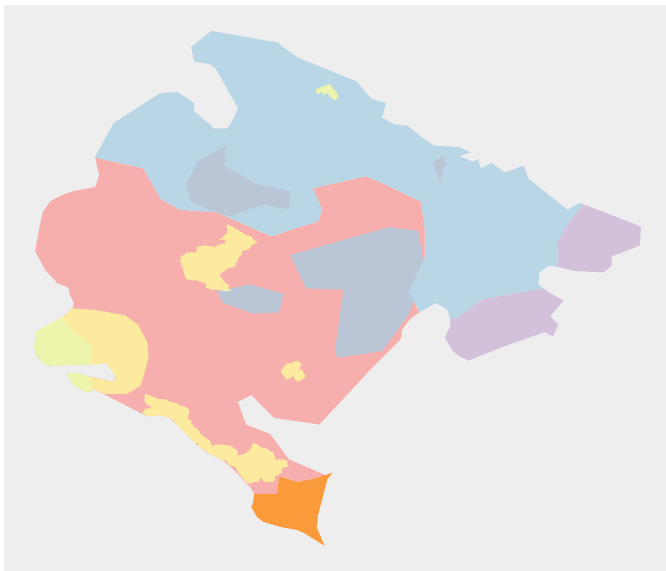


Figure 600: Map of ethnic groups in Montenegro during 2006-2017.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Montenegrins	7589	Regionally based
Serbs	6488	Regionally based
Croats	1188	Regionally based
Bosniak/Muslims	841	Regionally based
Albanians	298	Regionally based
Roma		Dispersed

Table 209: List of ethnic groups in Montenegro during 2006-2017.