

# Serbia

## *Ethnicity in Serbia*

### *Group selection*

In 2006, Montenegro declared independence from Yugoslavia/Serbia after the majority of the population of Montenegro voted affirmative on this issue. Thus, Serbia as single country, starts to exist in 2007. We identify the following politically relevant ethnic groups: **Serbs, Albanians, Bosniak/Muslims, Croats, Hungarians, Montenegrins, and Roma.**

### *Power relations*

#### *2007-2008*

The Serbs are the dominant majority in the state.

Since 2007, the remaining Montenegrins are “powerless” in Serbia. There is one party representing the Montenegrins in Serbia (Crnogorske partije) founded in 2008, but they have not received enough votes to gain a seat in the national assembly.

Since the NATO intervention in 1999, the Albanians in Kosovo had separatist autonomy, because Serbia lost its influence in Kosovo and the region was under UNMIK control with strong inclusion of the Albanians.

The Party of Democratic Action of Sandzak, which represents the Bosniaks in Serbia, was part of the government coalition from 2008 to 2012, however only received a minister post without portfolio. Thus, even though being represented in the executive, they are de facto powerless.

The Roma, apart from the harassment and social discrimination regarding education, health care and housing (<sup>3826</sup>), face obstacles to receive personal documentation, which can create a de-facto statelessness, a lack of citizenship and the hindrance to participate politically for Roma people. Many Roma live in informal settlements and are therefore not officially registered. Hence, the Roma are politically discriminated (<sup>3827</sup>; <sup>3828</sup>). Those particularly affected by the lack of political rights are the forcedly displaced Roma coming from Kosovo (<sup>3829</sup>). Thus, they are in fact not Serbian, but Kosovar citizen. But as Kosovo is not recognized by Serbia, they are classified as IDPs within Serbia.

<sup>3826</sup> [Amnesty International, 2017]

<sup>3827</sup> [Joksic, 2015]

<sup>3828</sup> [U.S. State Department, 2000-2009]

<sup>3829</sup> [Civil Rights Defenders, 2016]

*2009-2017*

In 2008, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia. The remaining Albanian minority, concentrated in Southern Serbia in the municipalities Presheva, Bujanovc and Medvegja, is “powerless” since 2009. The Albanian Coalition from the Presheva Valley has one seat in the national assembly.

There have been tensions in the Vojvodina region between members of the Serb majority and Hungarian minority. In September 2012, approximately 20 Serbs armed with iron rods attacked eight Hungarian children and young adults in the town of Subotica, allegedly because the victims spoke Hungarian.

A new cabinet was formed in April 2014, again only comprising of parties that represent the Serbian ethnicity and leaving the Corats, the Bosniaks, the Albanians, the Montenegrins and the Hungarians “powerless” at the national level (<sup>3830</sup>). Prime minister Aleksandar Vucic entered a second term in 2016, keeping half of his cabinet and renewing half of its members, however retaining the coalition of 2014 (<sup>3831</sup>).

<sup>3830</sup> [CIA, 2015]

<sup>3831</sup> [Reuters, 2016]

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## *Political status of ethnic groups in Serbia*

*From 2007 until 2008*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Serbs	0.66	DOMINANT
Albanians	0.21	SELF-EXCLUSION
Hungarians	0.031	POWERLESS
Bosniak/Muslims	0.014	POWERLESS
Roma	0.014	DISCRIMINATED
Croats	0.007	POWERLESS
Montenegrins	0.007	POWERLESS

*From 2009 until 2017*

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
Serbs	0.838	DOMINANT
Hungarians	0.035	POWERLESS
Bosniak/Muslims	0.023	POWERLESS
Albanians	0.008	POWERLESS
Croats	0.008	POWERLESS
Montenegrins	0.005	POWERLESS
Roma	0.004	DISCRIMINATED

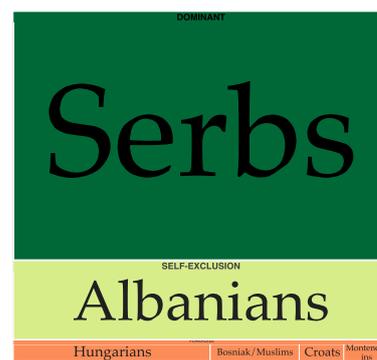


Figure 772: Political status of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2007-2008.



Figure 773: Political status of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2009-2017.

## *Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Serbia*

*From 2007 until 2007*



Figure 774: Map of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2007-2007.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> Serbs	78 604	Regionally based
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Albanians	11 076	Regionally based
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Hungarians	5395	Regionally based
<span style="color: purple;">■</span> Bosniak/Muslims	2190	Regionally based
Montenegrins		Dispersed
Roma		Dispersed
Croats		Dispersed

Table 263: List of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2007-2007.

*From 2008 until 2008*



Figure 775: Map of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2008-2008.

Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■ Serbs	78 604	Regionally based
■ Albanians	11 076	Regionally based
■ Hungarians	5395	Regionally based
■ Bosniak/Muslims	2190	Regionally based
Montenegrins		Dispersed
Roma		Dispersed
Croats		Dispersed

Table 264: List of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2008-2008.

*From 2009 until 2017*

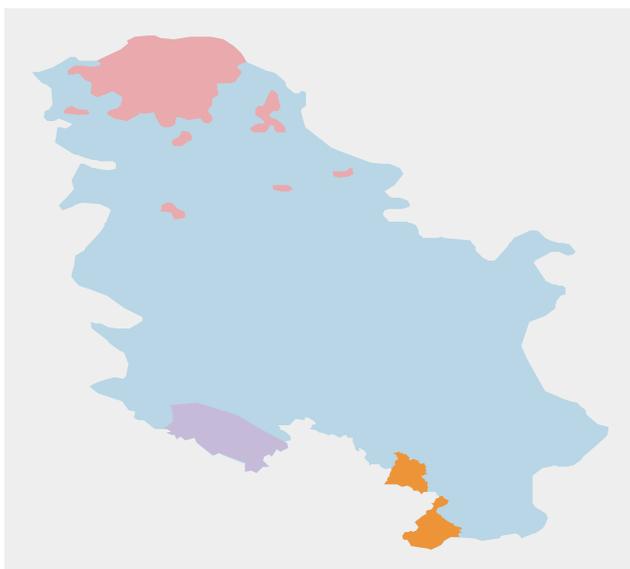


Figure 776: Map of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2009-2017.

	Group name	Area in km <sup>2</sup>	Type
■	Serbs	77 000	Regionally based
■	Hungarians	5395	Regionally based
■	Bosniak/Muslims	2188	Regionally based
■	Albanians	1292	Regionally based
	Roma		Dispersed
	Croats		Dispersed
	Montenegrins		Dispersed

Table 265: List of ethnic groups in Serbia during 2009-2017.