

Montenegro Facts

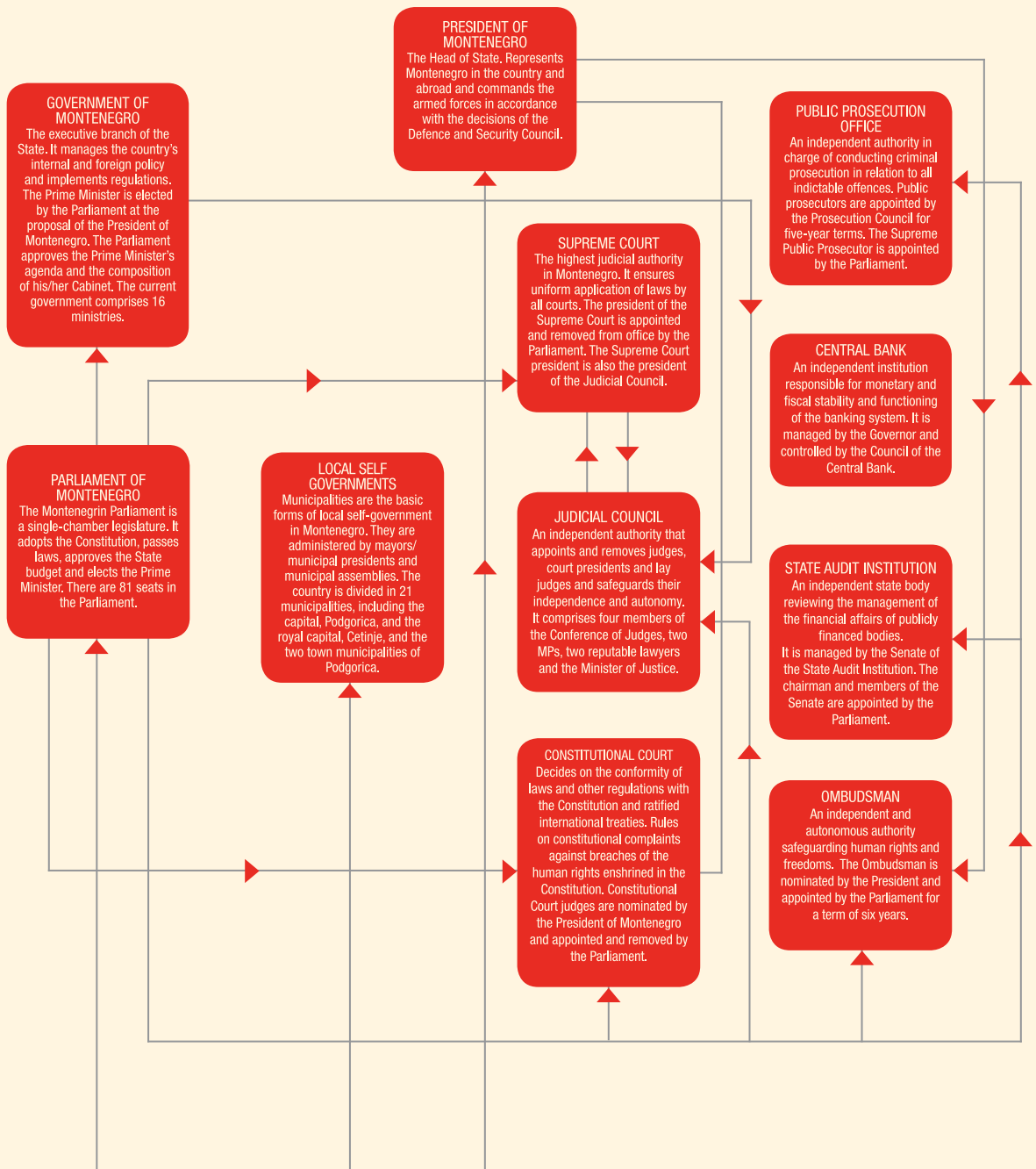
Government Guide Series



Government · Society · World · Economy · People · Nature

STATE SYSTEM OF MONTENEGRO

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY



THE ELECTORATE

Montenegro in Brief

Official name:	Montenegro
Area:	13,812 km ²
Population:	620 029 (2011 census)
Border length:	614 km
Land area:	13,812 km ²
Coastline:	293 km
Climate:	Mediterranean
Average number of sunny days:	180
Average air temperature:	27.4° C in summer, 13.4° C in winter
Capital:	Podgorica (population of 187,085) – administrative and economic centre
Royal capital:	Cetinje – historical and cultural centre
Form of government:	Parliamentary republic
Official language:	Montenegrin; Serbian, Bosnian, Albanian and Croatian are also in official use.
Literacy rate:	98.5%

ETHNIC COMPOSITION:

Montenegrins	44.98%
Serbs	28.73%

Bosniaks	8.65%
Albanians	4.91%
Muslims	3.31%
Non-declared	4.87%

Main religions:	Orthodox Christianity, Islam, Roman Catholicism
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NATIONAL HOLIDAYS:

Independence Day	– 21 May
Statehood Day	– 13 July

OTHER PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

New Year's Day	– 1 January
Labour Day	– 1 May

BASIC ECONOMIC FACTS:

(2012 estimates)	
GDP:	EUR 3.276 billion
GDP real growth rate:	-0.5%
GDP per capita:	EUR 5,284
Unemployment rate:	19.7%
Inflation:	4.1%
Official Currency:	Euro
Major industries:	Tourism, metal industry, agriculture



President of Montenegro

The President is the Head of State on whom the Constitution confers the power to:

- represent Montenegro within the country and abroad;
- command the military on the basis of the decisions of the Defence and Security Council;
- proclaim laws by ordinance;
- call parliamentary elections;
- propose to the Parliament: the candidate for prime minister, after consultations with the representatives of the political parties represented in the Parliament; the Constitutional Court President and judges; and the Ombudsman;
- appoint and revoke Montenegrin ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions abroad, at the proposal of the Government and after obtaining the opinion of the Parliamentary Committee responsible for international relations;
- accept letters of accreditation and recall of foreign diplomats;
- award medals and honours of Montenegro;
- grant amnesty; and
- perform other responsibilities stipulated by the Constitution or the law.

The President is elected for a five-year term in direct, general elections, by secret ballot.

Every citizen of Montenegro residing in the country for no less than 10 years in the past 15 years is eligible to run for President. The President may serve a maximum of two Presidential terms.

The President is also the Chairman of the Defence and Security Council.

The current President of Montenegro, Mr Filip Vujanović, was elected on 7 April 2013, and formally inaugurated on 20 May 2013.

The official residence of the President is located in the Royal Capital of Cetinje.

Plavi dvorac (The Blue Palace), the presidential residence



Parliament of Montenegro

The Montenegrin Parliament is a single-chamber legislature. MPs are elected by universal suffrage, through a direct and secret ballot, for a period of four years.

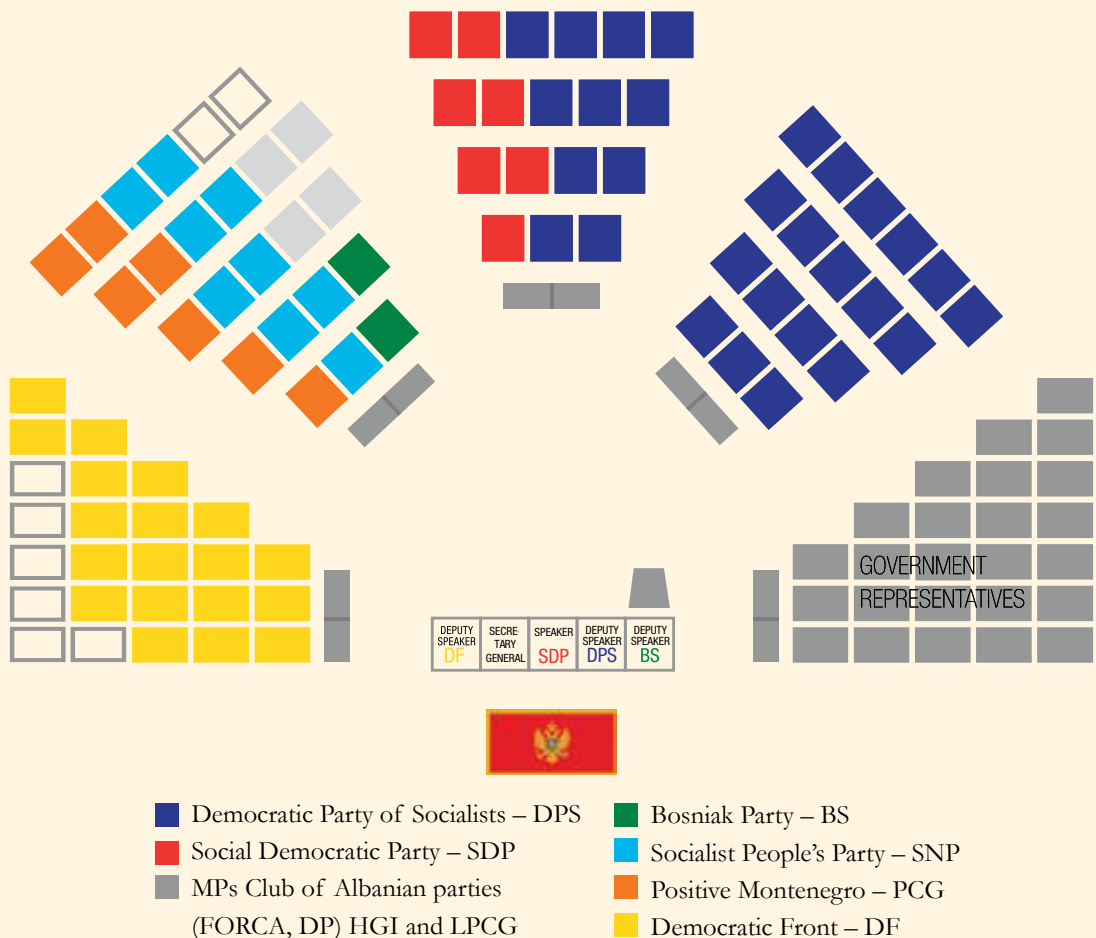
The Parliament adopts the Constitution, passes laws and secondary legislation, approves the State budget, appoints and removes the Prime Minister and cabinet members and ratifies international treaties.

Following the October 2012 elections, the European Montenegro coalition (Democratic Party of Socialists – DPS, Social Democratic Party – SDP and Liberal Party – LP), together with ethnic minority parties, Bosniak

Party – BS, Croatian Civic Initiative – HGI and ethnic Albanian parties (FORCA and DP) holds 45 seats in the 81-seat Parliament.

As for the opposition, the Democratic Front (DF) holds 20, Socialist People’s Party (SNP) nine, and Positive Montenegro (PCG) seven seats.

The current speaker of the Parliament is Mr Ranko Krivokapić, leader of the SDP, and deputy speakers are Mr Željko Šturanović, Vice-President of the DPS, Mr Branko Radulović of the DF, and Mr Suljo Mustafić of the Bosniak Party.



COMPOSITION OF THE PARLIAMENT

Government of Montenegro

The current Montenegrin Government under Prime Minister Milo Đukanović was voted in on 4 December 2012, following the parliamentary elections on 14 October 2012.

The new Prime Minister performed a substantial reshuffle of his predecessor's Cabinet. Instead of three, there are now four Deputy Prime Ministers, and several new ministers have been appointed. The number of the ministries, 16, remains intact.

The Government is backed by 45 out of 81 MPs. It is a coalition government consisting of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), Social Democratic Party (SDP), Liberal Party (LP), Bosniak Party (BS), Croatian Civic Initiative (HGI), and ethnic Albanian parties (FORCA and DP).

According to the Constitution, the Government of Montenegro, as the executive branch of the State, has the power to:

- manage the internal and foreign policy of Montenegro;

- enforce laws, other regulations and general acts;
- adopt decrees, decisions and other regulations for the enforcement of laws;
- sign international agreements;
- propose the Development Plan and Spatial Plan of Montenegro;
- propose the Budget and the Final Statement of the Budget;
- propose the National Security Strategy and Defence Strategy;
- decide on the recognition of states and establishment of diplomatic and consular relations with other states;
- nominate ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions abroad; and
- perform other responsibilities stipulated by the constitution or the law.

The Cabinet is proposed by the Prime Minister Designate, who is nominated by the President, and is voted in by a simple majority vote in the Parliament.

THE CABINET

Prime Minister	Milo Đukanović	DPS
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration	Igor Lukšić	DPS
Deputy Prime Minister for Political System, Foreign and Interior Policy and Minister of Justice	Duško Marković	DPS
Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Policy and Financial System and Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications	Vujica Lazović	SDP
Deputy Prime Minister for Regional Development	Rafet Husović	BS
Minister of the Interior	Raško Konjević	SDP
Minister of Defence	Milica Pejanović-Đurišić	DPS
Minister of Finance	Radoje Žugić	DPS
Minister of Education	Slavoljub Stijepović	DPS
Minister of Science	Sanja Vlahović	DPS
Minister of Culture	Branislav Mićunović	DPS
Minister of Economy	Vladimir Kavarić	DPS
Minister of Transport and Maritime Affairs	Ivan Brajović	SDP
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development	Petar Ivanović	DPS
Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism	Branimir Gvozdenović	DPS
Minister of Health	Miodrag Radunović	DPS
Minister for Human and Minority Rights	Suad Numanović	DPS
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare	Predrag Bošković	DPS
Minister without Portfolio	Marija Vučinović	HGI

The Judiciary

THE SUPREME COURT

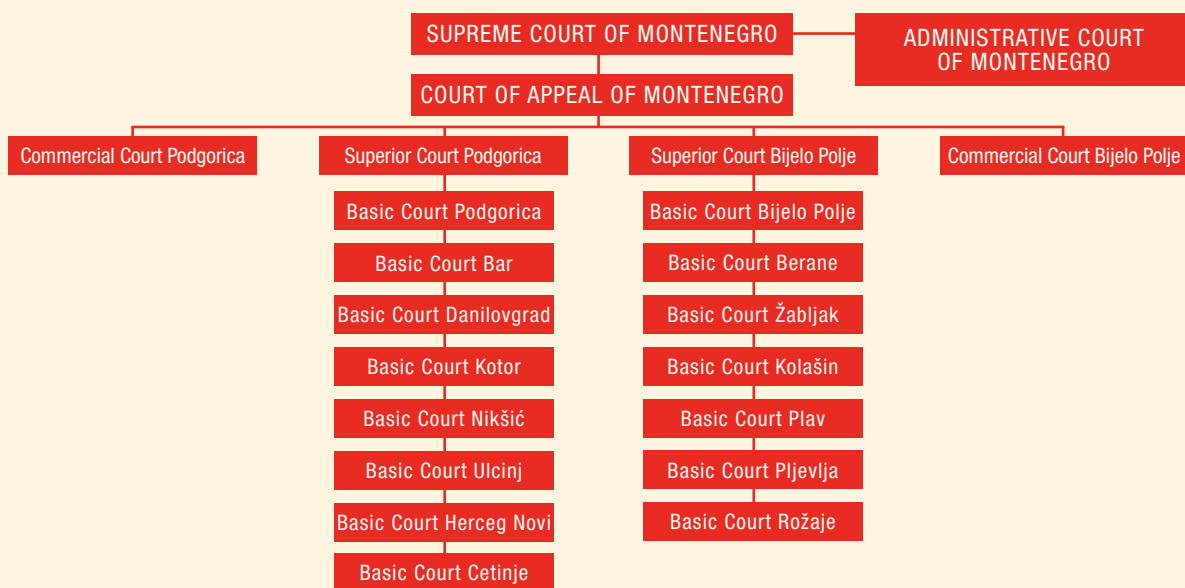
The Supreme Court is the highest court in Montenegro. Its chief responsibility is to ensure the uniform enforcement of law by all courts.

The president of the Supreme Court is elected by the Parliament at the joint proposal of the President of Montenegro, the Speaker of the Parliament and the Prime Minister.

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Judges are appointed and removed from office by the Judicial Council. The Judicial Council comprises the president of the Supreme Court, four judges elected by the Conference of Judges, two MPs (elected by the Parliament from amongst the ruling majority and the opposition), two renowned lawyers (appointed by the Head of State) and the Minister of Justice.

STRUCTURE OF THE JUDICIARY



HISTORIC MILESTONE

The General Code of Montenegro and the Highlands, adopted on 29 October 1789 by the People's Assembly and the Council of Chieftains in the Stanjevići Monastery in Budva, lays the legal foundations for the modern Montenegrin state and introduces the first central judicial authority of Montenegro: the Court Council of Montenegro and the Highlands – (*Praviteljstvo suda crnogorskog i brdskog*).

The Court Council was the highest judicial authority, comprising 50 judges, who took an oath of loyalty to the fatherland and pledged to make judgments according to the law and on the merits of individual cases.

29 October is celebrated as the Day of the Montenegrin Judiciary.

The Media

Freedom of the press and freedom of expression are guaranteed by the Constitution.

Media representatives are guaranteed the freedom of expression, freedom of investigation, collection, dissemination, publicising and receiving of information; free access to information; protection of personal integrity and dignity; and the uncensored and free flow of information.

Free access to information is further improved by the new Law on the Free Access to Information, according to which a broad spectrum of data is to be made available directly at the official websites of state bodies and offices, thus making access to information easier.

Apart from registration with the relevant authorities, no other authorisation is required for the establishment of media outlets, while foreign and domestic journalists enjoy equal rights under the law.

In order to promote freedom of speech further, Montenegro has decriminalised libel, while restricting the level of damages awarded in litigation cases against journalists in line with the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

For a country with a population of 620,000, Montenegro has a diverse and very rich media scene.

THE PRESS

- Blic Montenegro – daily
- Dan – daily
- Dnevne novine – daily
- Pobjeda – daily
- Vijesti – daily
- Monitor – weekly

TELEVISION

(NATIONAL COVERAGE)

- TV Montenegro (RTCG) – public broadcaster, operates two networks and a satellite channel
- Pink M – private
- Prva TV – private
- TV Vijesti – private

RADIO

(NATIONAL COVERAGE)

- Radio Montenegro (RCG) – public broadcaster, operates two networks
- Antena M – private
- Atlas Radio – private
- Prva Radio – private
- Radio D Plus – private
- Radio Delfin – private
- Radio Elmag – private

NEWS AGENCY

- MNNews - Mina - private



Human and Minority Rights

The Montenegrin Constitution provides the legal basis for the promotion and advancement of fundamental human rights and freedoms and affirms Montenegro's commitment to respect international standards in this area.

There are three key constitutional provisions, essential for the enjoyment of human rights and freedoms. Article 6 provides general protection for human rights and freedoms as inviolable categories. Article 7 prohibits incitement to hatred and intolerance on any grounds, while Article 8 bans discrimination, as a general precondition for the enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms.

The Constitution provides minority ethnic communities with the following specific rights:

- to express, maintain, advance and publicly display their national, ethnic, cultural and religious specificities;
- to choose, use and publicly display ethnic symbols and celebrate ethnic holidays;
- to use their own language and alphabet for private, public and official purposes;
- to receive education in their own language and alphabet in public institutions and for school curricula, in communities where they account for a significant portion of the population, to include references to their history and culture;
- for local self-government bodies, public administration and judicial authorities, in communities where they account for a significant portion of the population, to conduct proceedings in their own language;
- to establish educational, cultural and religious associations with financial support from the state;
- to have their names written in their own language in official identification documents;
- to have traditional names of places and streets and other topographic signs written in their own language;
- to have authentic representation in the Parliament

of Montenegro and local assemblies in communities where they account for a significant portion of the population, in accordance with the principle of affirmative action;

- to proportional representation in public services, national authorities and local self-government bodies,
- to information in their language;
- to establish and maintain contacts with persons and associations outside of Montenegro with whom they share common national or ethnic origin, cultural and historical heritage or religious beliefs;
- to establish councils for the protection and promotion of specific rights.

In 2010, Montenegro passed the Anti-Discrimination Law, prohibiting discrimination on any grounds.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights is a government department in charge of the monitoring, research and protection of human and minority rights in accordance with the Constitution and international treaties governing this area.

The Government has established the Anti-Discrimination Council, as the core advisory body chaired by the Prime Minister comprising high government officials and representatives of the civil society.

Within the Montenegrin Parliament, there are two committees in charge of human rights issues, the Human Rights and Freedoms Committee and the Gender Equality Committee.

The Ombudsman (formally: the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms) is an independent institution in charge of safeguarding the human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, laws, ratified international treaties and general principles of international law.

Unity in Diversity: Ethnicities

Throughout its history, Montenegro has cherished its religious, ethnic and cultural diversity.

STATISTICS

Montenegro's main demographic feature is a great versatility of ethnic and religious communities.

POPULATION BY ETHNICITY

No.	ETHNICITY	2011 CENSUS		No.	ETHNICITY	2011 CENSUS	
		POPULATION	PERCENTAGE			POPULATION	PERCENTAGE
1.	Montenegrins	278,865	44.98%	11.	Russians	946	0.15%
2.	Serbs	178,110	28.73%	12.	Macedonians	900	0.15%
3.	Bosniaks	53,605	8.65%	13.	Slovenians	354	0.06%
4.	Albanians	30,439	4.91%	14.	Hungarians	337	0.05%
5.	Muslims	20,537	3.31%	15.	Italians	135	0.02%
6.	Roma	6,251	1.01%	16.	Germans	131	0.02%
7.	Croatians	6,021	0.97%	17.	Others	8,818	1.42%
8.	Egyptians	2,054	0.33%	18.	Unspecified	30,170	4.81%
9.	Regional affiliation	1,202	0.19%	TOTAL		620,029	100%
10.	Yugoslavs	1,154	0.19%				

Historic Old Town of Bar, famous for its religious and ethnic pluralism



Religious Diversity

POPULATION BY RELIGION

NO.	RELIGION	POPULATION	PERCENTAGE
1.	Orthodox	446,858	72.07%
2.	Islam/Muslims	118,477	19.1%
3.	Catholicism	21,299	3.44%
4.	Atheist	7,667	1.24%
5.	Christians	1,460	0.24%
6.	Adventists	894	0.14%
7.	Protestant	143	0.02%
8.	Other religions	7,051	1.13%
9.	Unspecified	16,180	2.61%
TOTAL		620,029	100%

Source: the 2011 Census

OSTROG MONASTERY

A 17th-century monastery dedicated to its founder St Vasilije of Ostrog (Sveti Vasilije Ostroški). Placed against an almost vertical mountain side, it is one of the most famous pilgrimage sites in the region.



HUSSEIN PASHA'S MOSQUE IN PLJEVLJA

Built in 1569 as a pious endowment of Hussein-Pasha Boljanić, a high-ranking official of the Ottoman Empire originally from the village of Boljanići near Pljevlja in Montenegro. It is regarded as one of the most beautiful sacral monuments of Islamic architecture in South-East Europe.



ST TRIPHON'S CATHEDRAL IN KOTOR

A monument of Roman architecture, built in 1166 on the foundations of an older pre-Roman church from the 10th century. It was completely restored after the 1979 earthquake. 2009 celebrated the 1,200th anniversary of the moving of St Triphon's relics from Constantinople to Kotor.



Montenegro and the World: Foreign Policy

EU AND NATO INTEGRATION

With regard to its strategic interests and the interest of its citizens, with due respect given to regional processes and the broader context of European and global perspectives, Montenegro's foreign policy gives the highest priority to European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

Montenegro sees the EU as the optimal framework for the accommodation of further development of overall reforms, harmonisation with European standards and their adoption, as well as the enhancement of bilateral relations with EU member states.

There is a broad social consensus in Montenegro about the need to join the EU, which provides an additional impetus for enhanced progress toward this goal.

NATO accession, as one of the key foreign policy priorities, guarantees the stability and security necessary for achieving other strategic national goals, economic growth and further development of the country.

GOOD NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Montenegro is committed to nurturing and developing good relations with its neighbours, considering this as a constituent part of its European and Euro-Atlantic integration. Moreover, Montenegro is devoted to the improvement of existing and creation of new forms of cooperation in the regional context, with the aim of maximising the opportunities for economic development, encouraging substantial democratic processes and contributing to fostering and preserving regional stability.

Montenegro particularly advocates the concept of establishing closer ties with the broader neighbourhood. This involves not only bordering countries, but also Macedonia and Slovenia, as well as Austria, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria.

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION

The substance and quality of bilateral cooperation, as the basis of success in the European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes, is a vital and unchangeable part of Montenegrin foreign policy. Working to enhance comprehensive relations with all countries of the world improves the role and position of Montenegro on the global political scene as an open and reliable partner.

Moreover, through its participation in international organisations, Montenegro protects and promotes its interests, participates in defining global political trends and, together with countries of the region and beyond, seeks to invigorate cooperation and joint representation in broader international forums.

Since regaining independence, Montenegro has opened 22 Embassies, 6 Missions to International Organisations, as well as 3 Consulates around the world.



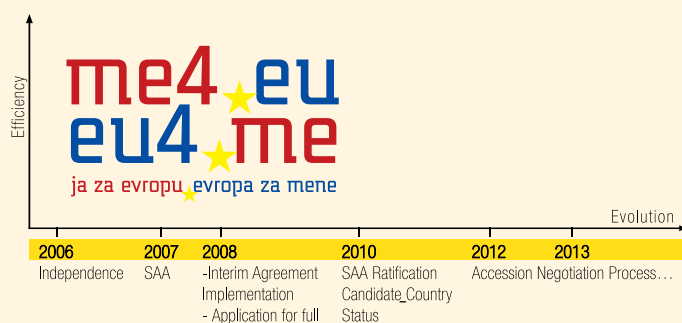
Montenegro's European Integration

KEY FACTS

- There is a broad national and political consensus on EU integration as Montenegro's strategic priority.
- The Government of Montenegro appointed the Chief Negotiator for EU accession in December 2011, while establishing the structure for negotiations on accession to the European Union in February 2012.
- The negotiation process between Montenegro and the European Union officially started on 29 June 2012.

EU INTEGRATION MILESTONES

- 21 May 2006 – The Montenegrin independence referendum takes place – 55.5% of votes cast in favour of independence.
- 15 October 2007 – The Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) signed in Luxembourg.
- 1 November 2007 – The European Commission Delegation in Podgorica set up.
- 13 November 2007 – The Parliament of Montenegro ratifies the SAA, the Interim Agreement and Agreements on Visa Facilitation and Readmission.
- 1 January 2008 – Interim Agreement on Trade and Trade-related Issues and Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements enter into force.
- 15 December 2008 – Montenegro submits its application for EU membership.
- 23 April 2009 – The Council invites the Commission to submit its opinion on Montenegro's application.
- 30 November 2009 – The European Council grants visa-free travel for Montenegrin citizens.
- 1 May 2010 – The Stabilisation and Association Agreement enters into force, after being ratified by all 27 Member States.
- 9 November 2010 – European Commission presents positive Opinion on Montenegro's EU membership application.
- 17 December 2010 – European Council grants Candidate Status to Montenegro.
- 12 October 2011 – In the Progress Report, the European Commission recommends the opening of accession negotiations with the EU.
- 9 December 2011 – The European Council welcomes the European Commission's assessment on the good progress made by Montenegro.
- 29 December 2011 – Chief Negotiator is appointed by the Government of Montenegro.
- 2 February 2012 – The Government of Montenegro adopts the Decision Establishing the Negotiating Structure for the Accession of Montenegro to the European Union.
- 23 May 2012 – The European Commission publishes the Report on Montenegro's Progress in the Implementation of Reforms and recommends the EU member states to open the negotiations on accession of Montenegro in June 2012.
- 26 June 2012 – European General Affairs Council in Luxembourg decides to recommend initiation of accession negotiations between Montenegro and EU to the European Commission.
- 29 June 2012 – Official beginning of the negotiation process between Montenegro and European Union.
- 18 December 2012 – Chapter 25 – Science and Research opened and provisionally closed at the Intergovernmental conference in Brussels.
- 15 April 2013 – Chapter 26 – Education and Culture opened and provisionally closed at the Intergovernmental conference in Brussels.



Montenegro & NATO

In the Declaration of Independence of 3 June 2006, Montenegro clearly expressed its commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration, as one of the top national priorities. Montenegro believes that NATO membership is a guarantee for long-term stability and security of the Western Balkans.

IMPORTANT FACTS:

- The official relations between Montenegro and NATO began on 29 November 2006, with an invitation to join the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme.
- Since joining the PfP, Montenegro has participated in all political, military and defence partnership programmes. Montenegro is currently implementing the Membership Action Plan (MAP), as well as military and defence programmes PARP and IPCP (Planning and Rewrite Process and the Individual Programme for Cooperation and Partnership).
- At the meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Alliance on 3-4 December 2009 in Brussels, Montenegro was invited to initiate the MAP cycle, following good results in internal reforms and participation in PfP; MAP represents the final stage of integration before considering country's readiness to join NATO.
- Montenegro is actively participating in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan since March 2010.
- The first MAP (2010-2011) began after the official presentation of the first Annual National Program (ANP) in Brussels, on 18 September 2010.
- The first MAP was concluded with a successful assessment in June 2011
- The second MAP was concluded on 27 June 2012 at the meeting between the Montenegrin delegation and NAC in Brussels.
- Information Centre for Euro-Atlantic integration was opened in Podgorica on 5 November 2012, with the support of the Government of Montenegro and coordinated by NGO Centre for Democratic Transition.
- Third ANP MAP was presented on 30 October 2012, at the meeting of NAC and Montenegrin delegation in Brussels.
- Since January 2013, Montenegro chairs the South East Europe Security Cooperation Steering Group (SEEGROUP).
- On 28 February 2013 Montenegro renamed the Council for Partnership for Peace Membership – NATO Membership Council and appointed the National Coordinator for NATO.

US-ADRIATIC CHARTER A5

Regional cooperation remains Montenegro's priority, especially within the most important security regional initiative – the US-Adriatic Charter A5, whose members already contribute to the ISAF Mission in Afghanistan. Montenegro will chair the US-Adriatic Charter A5, for the second time, from 1 July to 31 December 2013.

Montenegrin delegation, headed by the Prime Minister, attended the NATO Summit in Chicago, USA, held on 20-21 May 2012. Montenegro participated at the Summit as an ISAF contributing country and attended the meeting on Afghanistan, as well as foreign ministers' meeting of the Alliance member states with the aspirant countries – 28+4 (Montenegro, Bosnia, Macedonia, and Georgia). The Summit confirmed the constructive role of Montenegro as the factor of stability in the region and beyond, through its participation in international peacekeeping missions and ISAF. Montenegro was particularly encouraged by the Declaration from the Summit.



Economy at a Glance

KEY FACTS

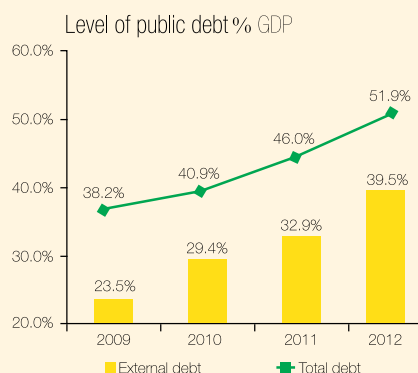
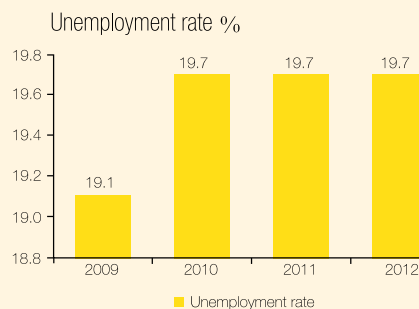
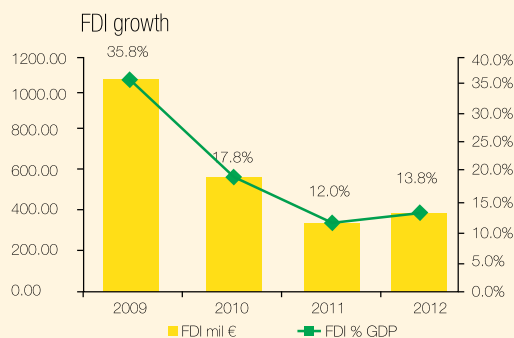
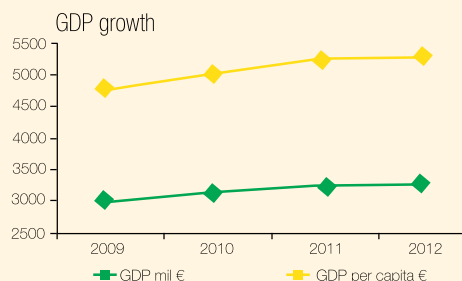
- National currency: EUR
- Monetary system: full euroisation
- Tax system: 17% VAT, 9% personal income tax, 15% on salaries above average (720 EUR)

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT RATINGS

- Moody's: BA3, stable
- Standard&Poor's: LongTerm (BB), outlook negative, Transfer and Convertibility Assessment (AAA)

KEY INDICATORS	2009	2010	2011	2012*
GDP nominal growth	-3,4	4,1	4,2	1,3
GDP (million EUR)	2981	3104	3234	3276
Real growth of GDP (%)	-5,7	2,5	3,2	-0,5
GDP per capita (EUR)	4720	5006	5211	5284
Unemployment rate (%)	19,1	19,7	19,7	19,7
Inflation (% end of the year)	3,4	0,5	3,1	4,1
Average monthly net wage (EUR)	463	479	484	487
Net foreign direct investment (million EUR)	1066,50	552,1	389,1	453,6
External debt (million EUR)	699,9	912,4	1063,7	1295,0
Fiscal deficit (% of GDP)	-5,7	-4,9	-5,5	-4,0
Current account balance (% of GDP)	-27,9	-22,9	-17,7	-17,9
Deficit/Surplus of state budget (% of GDP)	-4,4	-3,6	-5,9	-4,9
Export of goods (million EUR)	296,3	356,6	476,5	356,6
Import of goods (million EUR)	1617,9	1623,8	1782,8	1780,7
Trade balance (million EUR)	-1321,6	-1267,2	-1306,2	-1424,1
Tourist overnight stays (mil)	7552,0	7964,9	8775,1	9151,2

*2012 data are estimates



Major Development Projects in Montenegro

ENERGY

Underwater power cable project

In 2010 Montenegro and Italy established cooperation to build an underwater electricity interconnection cable in the Adriatic Sea, which will position Montenegro as an energy hub in the region. The entire project is worth around EUR 850 million and will be implemented by Italy's Terna and Montenegro's CGES.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Bar-Boljare high-way

The Bar-Boljare high-way is going to play a major strategic role in the regional transport network, by connecting Montenegro's coast and the capital city with other regional capitals and economic centres, providing good infrastructure for fast, safe, and reliable travel.

This impressive undertaking involves the construction of approximately 170 km of motorway with 134 different road structures, such as tunnels viaducts and bridges, amounting to approximately 30% of the total motorway length.

TOURISM

Kumbor

The former military base Kumbor in the Boka Kotorska (Bay of Kotor) area will be turned into an impressive, Europe's first One&Only resort with 150 luxurious rooms and villas, a large marina, spa centre, and a number of world-class services. Kumbor is located at the narrowest part of the entrance to the Tivat Bay, and its 60 acres lay between dramatic mountains and the stunning coastline of the Adriatic.

Luštica Peninsula

This jewel of the Adriatic is situated at the very entrance to the Bay of Kotor, in the municipality of Tivat. Not only has nature graced the peninsula with an optimal position both at sea and land, but it also boasts a rich cultural heritage, spanning centuries. Here, the Luštica Development Company, part of the Swiss-Egyptian consortium Orascom, will build, over an area of seven million square metres, a high-end resort encompassing eight hotels with spa and wellness facilities, three marinas, 275 residential villas, and a golf course.



History Timeline

- **Early 2nd century B.C.** – The Illyrian state that included today's Montenegro falls to the Romans
- **First half of the 7th century A.D.** – The Slavs migrate to today's Montenegro
- **Mid-11th century** – The Slavic principality of Doclea (Duklja) gains independence from the Byzantine Empire after a famous triumph under Vojislav at Tudemili near Bar in 1042
- **1077** – Mihailo Vojislavljević becomes king after accepting the crown from Pope Gregory VII
- **Late 12th century** – Duklja becomes part of the State of Nemanjić (later the Empire of Serbia)
- **Mid-14th century** – Duklja becomes the independent state of Zeta (later Montenegro) under the Balšić Dynasty
- **Late 15th century** – The Crnojević Dynasty acquires the first printing house among the South Slavs in which the first book "Oktoih" is published in 1494
- **1496** – Montenegro loses its formal independence and falls under the Ottoman Empire, but during the 16th century develops a form of unique autonomy within the Ottoman Empire
- **1697** – After securing a de facto independence from the Ottomans, the Assembly of the Montenegrins appoints Danilo Petrović as Prince-Bishop (Vladika), Orthodox Metropolitan and ruler, founder of the Petrović Dynasty (1697-1918) and theocracy in Montenegro
- **1784-1830** – Vladika Petar I Petrović unites the people in most of today's Montenegro, sets the legal foundations of the modern Montenegrin state, repels Ottoman attacks and becomes one of the most important figures in Montenegro's history
- **1830-1851** – Vladika Petar II Petrović (Njegoš) becomes very popular in European courts as the most highly regarded poet among the South Slavs (most notable for his *The Mountain Wreath*, 1847); Creates a strong state apparatus
- **1851** – Prince Danilo becomes the first secular Petrović ruler and enforces state centralisation
- **1878** – After the final liberation war and the Congress



King Nikola I (1841 – 1921)

- of Berlin, Montenegro receives full international recognition of independence and sovereignty under Prince Nikola Petrović
- **1910** – The Kingdom of Montenegro proclaimed under (now) King Nikola I after adopting the Constitution in 1905
- **1914-1916** – Montenegro takes part in World War I on the side of the Allies and wins a seminal victory at Mojkovac (6 January, 1916) against the much stronger Austria-Hungary; Liberated in 1918 by the Allies
- **1918** – After the Assembly of Podgorica, Montenegro loses its independence and joins the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (later the Kingdom of Yugoslavia)
- **1941** – After the capitulation of Yugoslavia in World War II, Montenegrins organise a mass popular uprising on 13 July
- **1945** – Montenegro becomes an equal member of the six-Republic Federation of Yugoslavia (SFRY)
- **1990** – Following the break-up of the SFR Yugoslavia, Montenegro forms the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with Serbia (later the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro)
- **2006** – After a referendum on independence on 21 May, Montenegro restores independence

Carnivals and Festivities

KOTOR CARNIVAL

The Kotor Carnival has been held each year since the 1960s, when the long tradition of the festivity was reestablished after being interrupted by WW II. The carnival's central event is a masquerade procession. In addition to carnival troupes from Kotor and other coastal towns in Montenegro, the Kotor Carnival also welcomes many carnival groups from all over the world. The event takes place in February and attracts thousands of visitors each year.

MIMOSA FESTIVAL

The Mimosa Festival has been celebrated in the coastal municipality of Herceg Novi since 1969. Taking place in February, the festival displays the region's

abundance of flowers, particularly mimosa flowers, at a time when most of Europe is still covered with snow. The event features a brass band procession with majorettes, a traditional wine and fish feast, a masquerade and many other cultural, sports and entertainment options.

DAYS OF BLEAK AND WINE

The festival celebrates Montenegro's wine-making and fishing tradition. The festivities take place in the picturesque town of Virpazar, once Montenegro's biggest market place, on the shores of Lake Skadar, where the local producers offer free tasting of their wines and foods. The Lake Skadar bleak is a fish species endemic to the lake.



In Montenegro – Sport Matters

HANDBALL

Women's national handball team won gold at the 2012 European Championship in Belgrade, after winning silver at London 2012 Olympics. "Zlatne lavice" ("Golden Lionesses") are much loved by Montenegrins of all generations. Montenegro is lauded as one of the world's strongest women's handball nations.

WATER POLO

Montenegro is widely considered as one of the world's strongest water polo nations.

As the most recent achievement, the national men's team took fourth place in the 2012 Olympics in London.

The period from 2008 to 2010 was particularly fruitful for Montenegro's water polo, when the national team and top clubs won four gold medals in major competitions in three years.

FOOTBALL

In March 2013, men's national football team topped Group H in 2014 Brazil World Cup Qualifiers, with two points ahead of England and four ahead of Poland, having scored 14 goals in six matches (only three goals scored against).

Montenegro's national team boasts a number of very prominent stars of European football, most notably Mirko Vučinić and Stevan Jovetić.

BASKETBALL

Men's national basketball team qualified for the EuroBasket 2013 in Slovenia.

Players from Montenegro have received a number of awards and recognitions, most recent being the 2012/13 Eurocup Rising Star trophy for Bojan Dubljević (Valencia Basket, power forward). Nikola Vučević (Orlando Magic, centre) was NBA's second rebounder in the 2012/13 season and notched 46 double-doubles, which ranked third.



World's First Ecological State

The Montenegrin Parliament adopted the Declaration on the Ecological State of Montenegro on 20 September 1991, making Montenegro the world's first Ecological State. The concept of Montenegro as an ecological state is enshrined in the Constitution.

NATURE RESERVES

There are five national parks in Montenegro: Durmitor, Biogradska gora, Lovćen, Lake Skadar and Prokletije. The national parks cover 9.04% of Montenegro's territory.

DURMITOR

The Durmitor region with its untouched beauty is a rare and authentic work of nature. It was declared a national park in 1952. Situated in the northwest of the country, the park occupies a large portion of the Durmitor massif, including the canyons of the Rivers Tara, Draga and Sušica and the upper part of the Komarnica River Canyon. It covers an area of 32,100 hectares.

The most striking geographical feature of the national park is a vast plateau, cut by deep canyons at 1,500 metres above sea level. The area is dotted with mountain tops, 48 of them above 2,000 metres, the highest being Bobotov Kuk at an altitude of 2,525 m.

The Durmitor National Park has been on UNESCO's World Heritage List since 1980. In addition, the River Tara Basin, which is part of the national park, has been recognised as a biosphere reserve under UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme since 1977.

BIOGRADSKA GORA

Located in the central part of Montenegro, between the Rivers Tara and Lim in the central part of the Bjelasica massif, it covers an area of 5,650 hectares (31,961 acres).

Biogradska Gora became a protected area only six years after Yellowstone was declared the world's first national park. In 1878, the area was presented as a gift to the then ruler of Montenegro Prince Nikola I Petrović and has been under state protection ever since.

The park's most important natural feature is a 1,600-acre virgin forest, one of the last three in Europe.

LOVĆEN

Lovćen National Park sits in the central and highest part of the Lovćen massif, in the southwest of



Montenegro between the Lake Skadar Basin, the Bay of Kotor and the Budva Riviera. The area covering 6,220 hectares was declared a national park in 1952.

The park's centrepiece monument is the Mausoleum of Peter II Petrović Njegoš, erected at Jezerski Vrh (Lake Peak), the resting place chosen by the famous ruler and poet himself. (cover page photo)

The place is legendary for its lookouts offering amazing views of the Bay of Kotor, Lake Skadar and the highlands in the north.



LAKE SKADAR

Covering an area ranging from 370 to 530 square kilometres, depending on the water level, Lake Skadar is the biggest lake in the Balkans.

Its favourable geographical position and sub-Mediterranean climate have made it one of Europe's most important habitats of marsh birds, second only to the River Danube delta. Around 280 bird species breed and nest on the lake, including the rare curly pelican, which became the symbol of the national park and the lake itself.

Two thirds of Lake Skadar belong to Montenegro and one third to the Republic of Albania. The Montenegrin part of the lake, with 40,000 hectares of shore land, was proclaimed a national park in 1983.

PROKLETIJE

The Prokletije mountain range was proclaimed Montenegro's fifth national park in 2009.

Prokletije National Park covers an area of 16,630 hectares. It has two natural reserves: Lake Hrid (347 ha) and Volušnica (705 ha). Prokletije also boasts the highest peak in Montenegro, Zla Kolata, at 2,534m.

Glacial activity made a deep impact on Prokletije, now considered one of the most glacial mountain ranges in Europe, second only to the Alps. With its endemic flora and fauna, Prokletije is not only important within the Balkans, but is also a significant European and global centre of biodiversity. The Prokletije area is home to over 140 species of butterflies, making it Europe's richest area for butterflies.

The locals called it "Prokletije" – "The Cursed Mountain" due to its wild, harsh climate, and threats from bears, lynxes and wolves.

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