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ICO General Research on Montenegro -2017

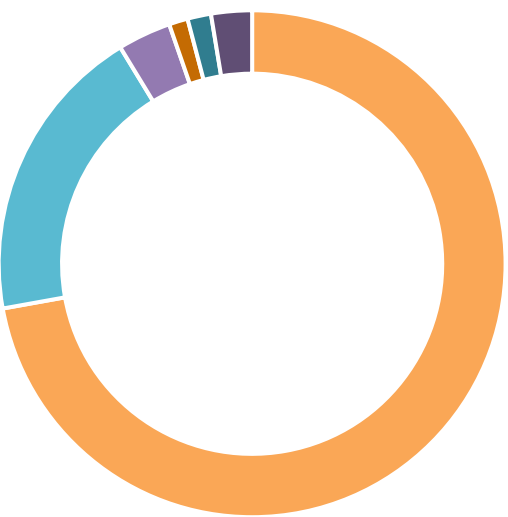
1. Background Information:

COUNTRY NAME	
Conventional long form:	None
Conventional short form:	Montenegro
Local long form:	None
Local short form:	Crna Gora
Former titles:	People's Republic of Montenegro, Socialist Republic of Montenegro, Republic of Montenegro
Etymology:	The countries name locally as well as in most western European languages means "black mountain" and refers to the dark coniferous forests on Mount Lovcen and the surrounding area

Government	
Capital	Podgorica geographical coordinates: 42 30 N, 19 18 E *Note: Cetinje retains the status of "Old Royal Capital"
Government Type	Parliamentary republic
Administrative Division	23 municipalities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (opstine, singular - opstina);• Andrijevica, Bar,• Berane, Bijelo Polje,• Budva, Cetinje,• Danilovgrad, Gusinje, Herceg Novi,• Kolasin,• Kotor,• Mojkovac,• Niksic,• Petrijica,• Plav, Pljevlja,• Pluzine,• Podgorica,• Rozaje,• Savnik,• Tivat,• Ulcinj• Zabljak

GENERAL NOTES	<p>Independence: Achieved independence on the 3rd of June 2006 from the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro</p> <p>National Holidays: National Day, 13 July (1878, the day the Berlin Congress recognized Montenegro as the 27th independent state in the world, and 1941, the day the Montenegrins staged an uprising against fascist occupiers and sided with the partisan communist movement)</p> <p>Constitution: several previous; latest adopted 22 October 2007</p> <p>*Amendments: proposed by the president of Montenegro, by the government, or by at least 25 members of the Assembly; passage of draft proposals requires two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly, followed by a public hearing; passage of draft amendments requires two-thirds majority vote of the Assembly; changes to certain constitutional articles such as sovereignty, state symbols, citizenship, and constitutional change procedures, require three-fifths majority vote in a referendum; amended 2013, 2014 (2016)</p> <p>Legal system: Civil law</p> <p>Citizenship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • citizenship by birth: no • citizenship by descent only: at least one parent must be a citizen of Montenegro • dual citizenship recognized: no • residency requirement for naturalization: 10 years
Population	
Total Population	642,550 (July 2017 est.)
Ethnic Groups (2002 est.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montenegrin 45%, • Serbian 28.7%, • Bosniak 8.7%, • Albanian 4.9%, • Muslim 3.3%, • Romani 1%, • Croat 1%, • other 2.6%, • unspecified 4.9%

<p>Ethnic Groups (2002 est.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Montenegrin Serbian Bosniak Albanian Muslim Romani Croat other unspecified
<p>Languages (2002 est.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serbian 42.9%, • Montenegrin (official) 37%, • Bosnian 5.3%, • Albanian 5.3%, • Serbo-Croat 2%, • other 3.5%, • unspecified 4%
<p>Languages (2002 est.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serbian Montenegrin (Official) Bosnian Albanian Serbo-Croat Other Unspecified
<p>Religions (2002 est.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orthodox 72.1%, • Muslim 19.1%, • Catholic 3.4%, • Atheist 1.2%, • Other 1.5%, • Unspecified 2.6%

Religions (2002 est.)	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orthodox Muslim Catholic Atheist Other Unspecified
Literacy Rate (2015 est.)	definition: age 15 and over that can read and write total population: 98.7% male: 99.5% female: 98%
Unemployment (youth ages 15-24)	total: 37.7% male: 39.9% female: 34.5% (2015 est.) country comparison to the world: 11

2. International Relations, Law and Situation on Human Rights:

International Treaties & Organisations	
Domestic Montenegrin NGO's	Centre for Civic Education Centre for Democracy and Human Rights CEDEM Centre for Democratic Transition Centre for Development of NGOs Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organizations Expeditio Foundation Open Society Institute Foundation for Culture and Tradition of Boka Kotorska "Project Rastko-Boka" Network for Affirmation of NGO sector NVO PULS

Human Rights treaties			
Ratified International Human Rights Treaties	Treaty	Signature Date	Ratification Date, Accession(a), Succession(d) Date
	CAT - Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment		
			23 Oct 2006 (d)

	CAT-OP - Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture	23 Oct 2006	06 Mar 2009
	CCPR - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights		23 Oct 2006 (d)
	CCPR-OP2-DP - Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming to the abolition of the death penalty		23 Oct 2006 (d)
	CED - Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	06 Feb 2007	20 Sep 2011
	CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women		23 Oct 2006 (d)
	CERD - International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination		23 Oct 2006 (d)
	CESCR - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights		23 Oct 2006 (d)
	CMW - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	23 Oct 2006	
	CRC - Convention on the Rights of the Child		23 Oct 2006 (d)
	CRC-OP-AC - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict		02 May 2007 (d)
	CRC-OP-SC - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children child prostitution and child pornography		23 Oct 2006 (d)
	CRPD - Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	27 Sep 2007	02 Nov 2009
Acceptance of individual complaint procedures for Montenegro	<u>Treaty</u>	<u>Acceptance of individual complaints procedures</u>	<u>Date of acceptance/non acceptance</u>
	CAT, Art.22 - Individual complaints procedure under the Convention against Torture	YES	26 Mar 2001
	CCPR-OP1 - Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	YES	23 Oct 2006
	CED, Art.31 - Individual complaints procedure under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	YES	20 Sep 2011
	CEDAW-OP - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	YES	23 Oct 2006
	CERD, Art.14 - Individual complaints procedure under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial	YES	23 Oct 2006

	<p>Discrimination</p> <p>CESCR-OP - Optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p> <p>CMW, Art.77 - Individual complaints procedure under the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families -</p> <p>CRC-OP-IC - Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child YES 24 Sep 2013</p> <p>CRPD-OP - Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities YES 02 Nov 2009</p>		
Acceptance of the inquiry procedure for Montenegro	<u>Treaty</u>	<u>Acceptance of inquiry procedure</u>	<u>Date of acceptance/non acceptance</u>
	CAT, Art.20 - Inquiry procedure under the Convention against Torture	YES	23 Oct 2006
	CED, Art.33 - Inquiry procedure under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	YES	20 Sep 2011
	CEDAW-OP, Art. 8-9 - Inquiry procedure under the Optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	YES	23 Oct 2006
	CESCR-OP, Art.11 - Inquiry procedure under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	-	
	CRC-OP-IC, Art.13 - Inquiry procedure under the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child	YES	24 Sep 2013
	CRPD-OP, Art.6-7 - Inquiry procedure under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	YES	02 Nov 2009
An Overview of Human Rights Issues	<p>The Human rights situation in Montenegro is similar to that of other countries in the region. The government formally supports human rights defenders and does not issue bans for any such group. However, deformation campaigns are still conducted through media channels closely aligned to the government and threats from extreme-right wing and religious groups continue to pose a threat to activists and vulnerable groups.</p>		
	<p>Several cases of mistreatment of persons while in detention by the police have been reported but the processing of these cases is slow. According to one of the latest judgements of European Court on Human Rights (ECtHR), Montenegro failed to conduct a comprehensive independent investigation after one of our partner organisations published a video that is showing a person being tortured while in the custody of Institute for the Execution of Criminal Sanctions</p> <p>Cases of mistreatment in police facilities continue to remain a cause for concern. Such cases</p>		

<p>Concerning Minorities Rights (Civil rights defenders 2015)</p>	<p>are prosecuted slowly, often without explanatory verdicts given. Montenegro's prisons are overpopulated, and prisoners experience poor health standards and living conditions.</p> <p>The Judiciary remains one of the biggest weak spots since Montenegro regained independence. Efficiency of the courts is one of the major features in need of improvements. Over 4000 cases are still pending before the courts and many of them are older than three years. Roadblocks in the system are often caused by cases being moved to lower judicial instances for retrial.</p> <p>The right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is respected and no cases of violations have been reported although tensions are high between the Serbian and Montenegrin Orthodox Church. This conflict also questions separation of the church and state, since the Montenegrin church receives special treatment from the state.</p> <p>Montenegro has 16 commercial television stations, 38 commercial radio stations, along with the national public service broadcaster and 17 local public services (three television and 14 radio stations). Despite a variety of media outlets, standards when it comes to freedom of expression have been undermined by a number of threats and attacks on media outlets, journalists and media property. Serious concerns have been raised over older cases brought to the courts regarding these attacks and many have been unresolved and are in danger of being statute barred. A Commission dedicated to investigating these attacks was created in 2013 and but no significant results have come out as a result of the Commissions establishment. There are serious concerns regarding biased media reporting, which tend to support Government policies, while the media is also strictly divided across political lines.</p> <p>Podgorica held its second pride parade in November 2014, without any major incidents reported which represented significant progress compared to 2013, when a number of incidents of violence were reported. In general, freedom of assembly and association is upheld and no bans were reported during 2014.</p> <p>Hate speech remains one of the most serious issues, especially against the LGBT community in Montenegro, usually vented through traditional and social media channels. Cases were reported, especially in the aftermath of a football match between Serbia and Albania in Belgrade, when the Albanian community in Montenegro was also subjected to hate speech as a result of high tensions and riots that caused the match to be suspended. In fact, a court in Montenegro sentenced the editor-in-chief of the tabloid newspaper <i>Informer</i>, finding him guilty of "allowing the publication of offensive articles about the Albanians". Hate speech against the LGBT community was also used by a high-ranking Bishop of the Serbian Orthodox Church.</p> <p>Montenegro is a parliamentary republic, whose president is elected by popular vote for a period of five years and the Government is then chosen by the Parliament by a majority of votes. In 2014, Montenegro held local elections in several cities including the capital Podgorica. The ruling parties kept office whilst more than 850 irregularities and 100 criminal complaints were reported by organisations dealing with the electoral process. Complaints varied from violations when it came to the secrecy of the vote to alleged violations in postal voting procedures. All of the reports were dismissed by the institutions in charge without any explanation given, questioning the democratic process in Montenegro. Several incidents also took place on election night, including an attack on human rights activists in Podgorica and an attack on a journalist who was allegedly reporting on electoral irregularities.</p> <p>Although a member of the Council of Europe, Montenegro does not fulfil its obligations when it comes to protection from discrimination especially concerning the Roma and LGBT communities. The LGBT community is most often subject to hate speech, threats, acts of</p>
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	<p>violence and discrimination. In December 2014, the LGBT Social Centre in Podgorica was attacked twice in one day, despite the presence of police officers. The centre has been subjected to a total 19 attacks. On the other hand, the Roma community remains underrepresented and faces prejudice and discrimination, especially concerning healthcare, housing and education.</p>
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<p>References :</p>	<p>Balkananalysis.com. (2018). <i>Domestic NGOs - Montenegro</i>. [online] Available at: http://www.balkananalysis.com/montenegro/domestic-ngos/ [Accessed 7 Jan. 2018].</p> <p>Cia.gov. (2017). The World Factbook — Central Intelligence Agency. [online] Available at: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mj.html [Accessed 8 Dec. 2017].</p> <p>Civil Rights Defenders. (2015). <i>Human Rights in Montenegro</i>. [online] Available at: https://www.civilrightsdefenders.org/country-reports/human-rights-in-montenegro/ [Accessed 7 Jan. 2018].</p> <p>Indexmundi.com. (2017). Montenegro Ethnic groups - Demographics. [online] Available at: http://www.indexmundi.com/montenegro/ethnic_groups.html [Accessed 8 Dec. 2017].</p> <p>Tbinternet.ohchr.org. (2018). <i>Treaty bodies Treaties</i>. [online] Available at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=116&Lang=EN [Accessed 6 Jan. 2018].</p> <p>Wango.org. (2018). <i>Worldwide NGO Directory</i>. [online] Available at: http://www.wango.org/resources.aspx?section=ngodir&sub=list&regionID=0 [Accessed 7 Jan. 2018].</p>
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This report was prepared by ICO's human rights researcher, for more information please send us an email: info@internationalcommunities.org

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