Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) Database

Dataset on Local Elections (1990-2020) [Dataset 3]

Contents

Description

Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) database is a scientific, non-profit project initiated with an aim of aiding researchers, policy makers and others interested in studying elections in Montenegro by providing precise and detailed data accompanied by a list of sources used and literature consulted.

The MNEE database currently consists of **Dataset 1** - national-level results of parliamentary and presidential elections (1990-2020); **Dataset 2** - results of parliamentary and presidential elections per municipality and constituency (1990-2020); **Dataset 3** – results of local elections for the election of councilors (1990-2020) and the presidents of municipalities/Mayor of Podgorica (2004-2009); **Dataset 4** – results of federal elections during the existence of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, for the constituencies on the territory of the Republic of Montenegro (1992, 1996, and 2000); and the **Electoral Maps Booklet** which combines depictions of electoral dynamics through electoral maps with data on demographics (1990-2009).

This codebook is for the Dataset 3 which contains results of local elections held in Montenegro from 1990 up to 2020.

Files

Dataset 3 is made of three .xlsx (MS Excel) files: **mnee_dataset3part1**, **mnee_dataset3part2,** and **mnee_dataset3presidents**. The first file, mnee_dataset3part1, contains data on elections for councilors held from 1990 to 2006. The second file, mnee_dataset3part2, contains data on elections for councilors held from 2008 to 2020. The third file, mnee_dataset3presidents, contains data on elections for presidents of municipalities and Mayor of Podgorica from 2004 up to 2009.

Note: After the introduction of the *Law on the Election of the President of Municipality* in 2003 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro – Municipal Regulations No. 42/2003), presidents of municipalities in Montenegro were elected directly by citizens and for a period of 5 years. The law stipulated that to be elected a candidate had to win more than 50% of the votes in the first round, otherwise the two candidates with most votes from the first round would have to compete in the second round. This introduction of direct elections for the presidents of municipalities (and mayor of the Capital Podgorica) lasted until 2009 when a new change in the *Law on Local Self-Government* (Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro – Municipal Regulations No. 88/2009) switched back to the indirect election of the President of Municipality - in local parliament, following the local elections held in that municipality.

Data for each election cycle (1990, 1992, …, 2020) is presented on a separate data sheet within the three provided .xlsx files.

Variables

Following variables are included in Dataset 3:

party_coalition - Provides abbreviation of the full party or coalition name in Montenegrin/Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian and/or Albanian. Where possible, this abbreviation is equal to that originally used by the party, otherwise first letters of the words found in the full name are used. For full party and coalition names please consult the document "Party, coalition, and group of citizens' lists – names and translation in English" available at the MNEE Database website, page "Dataset download".

- **Multiple political entities that make up a coalition are separated using "-".** For example, 1998 coalition of the Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), Social Democratic Party (SDP) and People's Party (NSCG) called "Da živimo bolje" (For a better life) appears in this variable as DPS-NSCG-SDP. The variable *coalition_name* (see below) provides its original full name and translation in English.

- **Citizens' Associations / Group of Citizens are also included.** They are coded as "GG" which is short from "Grupa građana" (Group of citizens). The name of the list of citizens is then added next to the "GG" abbreviation to help distinguish different groups of citizens in the given data sheet. It happened, albeit rarely, that group of citizens formed a coalition in which case I decided to follow the standard rule of connecting coalition members with "-". That is the case, for example, with a coalition of group of citizens called "People win" (*ME:* Narod pobjeđuje) that participated in 2020 local elections in Tivat and was made of 4 members: GG *Tivatska Akcija (Tivat Action)* - GG *Arsenal za Tivat (Arsenal for Tivat)* - GG *Slogom do pobjede* (*Victory through unity*) - GG *Slobodni gradjani* (*Free citizens*).

candidate – in dataset3_presidents, candidate variable lists full name of the candidate for the President of Municipality (and Mayor of Capital Podgorica). Letters such as č,ć,š,ž,đ were transliterated to c,s,z,dj and titles such as "Dr" added if found in official reports.

municipality – name of the municipality where local elections took place for the given year. Names are in Montenegrin, with letters such as č,ć,š,ž,đ being transliterated to c,s,z,dj.

- ***Note on entries with an asterisk (*):*** for some entries in the variable municipality you will notice that there is an asterisk (*****) next to the name of the urban/city municipality. This refers to the cases of the so-called "town

municipalities"[1] (or urban municipalities) which present, according to the Montenegrin legal regulations, a degree of local autonomy within a municipality but not to the extent that the area is considered a separate municipality. Tuzi became a fully-fledged municipality in 2018 so the asterisk disappears for those data entries that correspond to elections held after this legal change occurred.

- ***Note on Podgorica – Titograd*: from 1946 until 1992 the capital was named "Titograd", hence for 1990 elections it appears in the database as Titograd instead of Podgorica.**

round_presidents_local – for the elections for the presidents of municipalities/mayor of Podgorica, this variable indicates the round for which the results were reported. See also variable "winner" below.

coalition_name – name of the coalition in Montenegrin / Bosnian /Serbian / Croatian and /or Albanian (where applicable and where data was found).

votes_won – total number of votes won by a given party, coalition, or a group of citizens. In some rare cases, such as for the very first local elections in 1990, this information was not always present in official reports, so I coded those cases as NAs. If number of votes were provided within a report containing preliminary results, this information is then given in the variable *notes* so researchers can be aware of this.

seats_won – number of seats won in a local parliament by a given party, coalition, or a group of citizens.

seats_total – total number of seats in a local parliament of a given municipality.

votes_candidate_local - for elections for the president of municipalities/mayor of Podgorica, this variable indicates the total number of votes a given candidate won in each round.

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[1] Town municipality is the official translation used in Statistical Yearbook.

electorate – number of registered voters in a given municipality for a given election cycle.

votes_cast – total number of votes cast for a given party/coalition/group of citizens.

votes_cast_presidents – total number of votes cast in the election for the President of Municipality/Mayor of Podgorica.

votes_valid – total number of valid votes cast for parties/coalitions/group of citizens.

votes_valid_presidents - total number of valid votes cast in the election for the President of Municipality/Mayor of Podgorica.

winner (*for dataset3_presidents*) – when the value is equal to 1, this variable indicates winner of the elections for the president of municipalities/Mayor of Podgorica.

source – source from which the data was collected.

notes – useful additional information for a given row. For example, if the results reported were taken from a report containing preliminary results, or if something needs to be clarified regarding the data in a particular row.

Method and Sources Used for Compiling the Dataset

Data for Dataset 3 was collected from: 1) official reports published in newspapers by Republic Electoral Commission (later State Electoral Commission) and municipal electoral commissions, 2) journalist reports published in newspapers referring to the press conference organized by electoral commission where results were reported by the officials, 3) official statistical yearbooks, and 4) reports by municipal electoral commissions found in the *Official Gazette – Municipal Regulations* publications.

When two or more sources of data were available in the collected material, these sources were compared to ensure that the data provided is valid and to update

missing information in cases where one source did not contain what the other source provided. Variable "source" contains information on cases where two sources provided complementary data.

Note for 1990 elections: given that 1990 elections were the first free elections after the collapse of communism and that the formal organization of elections was not at the level present for later elections, the official data available for this round of local elections is very scarce (just as was the case for parliamentary and presidential elections held that year). I have searched in the local archives for official results published by municipal electoral commissions in the *Official Gazette of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro – Municipal Regulations*, starting with number 34/1990 published on 14 December 1990 (first after elections) and ending my search with number 24/1991 which was published on 25 July 1991 – that is, more than half year after the elections. I managed to find official results published for the following municipalities: Cetinje, Ulcinj, Herceg Novi, Tivat, Danilovgrad and Kotor. I did not manage to find results for any other municipality in the given span of editions of *Official Gazette – Municipal Regulations* publications. Therefore, I collected data for the missing municipalities by looking at the newspaper reports in daily newspaper "Pobjeda" which indicated that the report was made following the press by Electoral Commission in which officials spoke about the results. These reports usually contained number of seats won and lacked information on number of votes cast for each party/coalition/group of independent candidates as well as total number of votes cast, hence many NAs will appear here. The only municipality for which I was unable to find either electoral commission report or newspaper report with final results was Šavnik, so I reported the preliminary results (this is indicated in the dataset in the *notes* variable). For the municipality of Budva, I found neither official nor preliminary results in the mentioned sources used for data collection.

Note for 2002 elections: my search of the *Official Gazette of the Republic of Montenegro – Municipality Regulations 2002* resulted in collecting official data for most of the municipalities. I did not manage to find, despite several attempts, official reports for

5 municipalities: Nikšić, Berane, Budva, Bar and Kolašin. Unfortunately, daily newspapers at the time reported, from what I managed to find, only preliminary results (*Pobjeda* on 16 May and *Vijesti* on 16 and 17 May 2002). The way I approached this issue was to cross-check the data found in a report published in Vijesti with data found in a report published by an NGO overseeing local elections at the time. Serbian *Center for free elections and democracy* (CeSID) and Montenegrin *Center for Monitoring and Research* (CeMI) were observing local elections in 19 municipalities at the time and CeSID published a report called „Oko izbora – 8" (translation would be: Eye of the elections – number 8). This report includes, among other information on elections, outcomes of a parralel vote tabulutation method conducted at the time with information on the percentage of polling stations analyzed by the time report was published: Bar - 98.33 %, Berane - 98.55 %, Budva - 100% (there is a seat won discrepancy here between the reports in *Vijesti* and *CeSID* - 1 seat for NSS-SRS coalition dissapears according to CeSID report and I take this information as valid), Kolasin - 87.50 %, and Niksic - 93.94%.

Note on 2009 elections for the President of Municipality of Herceg Novi: despite my efforts, I did not manage to find official results for the elections for the President of Municipality of Herceg Novi that where held on 29 March 2009. Therefore, I reported preliminary results (the only one I found after searching Official Gazette-Municipal Regulations publications from 2009, daily newspaper „Vijesti" and daily newspaper „Pobjeda" editions between end of March and early April 2009). These results were published on 31 March 2009 in daily newspaper „Pobjeda" and indicate a clear victory for the SNP candidate in the first round even though elections were repeated a week later in two smaller polling stations with about 1000 voters.

Dates When Local Elections Were Held

For easier orientation, users of the Dataset 3 can also consult the supporting document "Dates when elections were held" that is available at the website of the MNEE Database. This document includes dates when all elections were held in Montenegro, including the local elections and the elections for presidents of municipalities and the Mayor of Podgorica.

How to Cite

To cite Dataset 3, you can use the following format as an example:

Chicago (17ᵗʰ Edition)

Lipovina, Boris. 2022. "Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) Database Project: Dataset on Local Elections (1990-2020)." https://electionsinmontenegro.com/

APA (7ᵗʰ Edition)

Lipovina, B. (2022). Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) Database Project: Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) Database Project: Dataset on Local Elections (1990-2020) [Data file]. Retrieved from https://electionsinmontenegro.com/