Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) Database

Dataset on Parliamentary and Presidential Elections (National-Level Totals) [Dataset 1]

Codebook

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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 (1990-2023); **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 with national-level results of parliamentary and presidential elections.

Variables

The excel file contains three data sheets: **parliamentary_allparties, parliamentary_inparliament** and **presidential**.

1. Data sheet **parliamentary_allparties** contains data on all parliamentary elections in Montenegro from 1990 up to 2023 and includes all parties, coalitions and group of citizens that took part in the elections.

2. Data sheet **parliamentary_inparliament** contains data on all parliamentary elections in Montenegro from 1990 up to 2023 but only on parties and coalitions that managed to secure seats in the Parliament.

3. Data sheet **presidential** contains data on all presidential elections held from 1990 up to 2023.

In the data sheets **parliamentary_allparties** and **parliamentary_inparliament,** the following variables are included:

- **election_year** – Year when elections were held. Values are: 1990, 1992, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2023. For precise date of elections, please consult document "Date of elections in Montenegro" which is available on the website of the MNEE database, page "Additional useful material".

- **party_coalition** – Provides abbreviation of the full party, coalition, or a group of citizens name in Montenegrin/Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian or Albanian. Where possible, this abbreviation is equal to that originally used by the political entity in question, otherwise, the first letters of the words found in the full name are used. For full party, coalition, and group of citizens names please consult the document "Party, coalition, and group of citizens' lists – names and translation in English" available at the MNEE Database website, page "Additional useful material".
  - o 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 (NS) called "Da živimo bolje" (For a better life) appears in this variable as:

    DPS-NS-SDP

    The next three variables in the dataset (see below) help identify coalition, its original full name and translation in English.

- **coalition** – Identifies whether a political entity in party_coalition variable took part in the elections alone or as part of a coalition. Value 1 = coalition, while value 0 = not in coalition.

- **coalition_name_original** – If coalition = 1, then variable coalition_name_original provides name of the coalition in Montenegrin/Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian or Albanian (where applicable and where I could find original full names).

- **coalition_name_english** – If coalition = 1, this variable provides English translation of the name of the coalition.

- **votes_won** – Number of total votes won by the party, coalition, or a list of independent candidates/group of citizens.

- **votes_won_percentage** – Percentage of the votes won by the party, coalition, or a list of independent candidates/group of citizens.

- **seats_won** – If party or coalition won seats in Parliament, this variable provides that number. Otherwise, its value is 0.

- **seats_percentage** – If party or coalition won seats in Parliament, this variable provides percentage of total seats that party or coalition has (or had) during the particular session of the Parliament. Note: the total number of seats in Montenegrin Parliament changed over time, from 125 (1990) to 81 (currently). Next variable provides exactly that information.

- **seats_total** – Number of seats Montenegrin Parliament had during the given period. This number changed over time: 125 after 1990 elections, 85 after 1992 elections, 71 after 1996 elections, 78 after 1998 elections, 77 after 2001 elections, 75 after 2002 elections and since 2006 it is 81.

- **electorate_total** – Size of the electorate for a given period. This number represents the total number of citizens with a right to vote registered in official records.

- **votes_cast** – Total number of votes cast (valid + invalid).

- **votes_valid** – Number of valid votes.

- **source** – Source from which data on the particular election period was gathered. This information repeats for identical values of election_year variable, i.e. it remains the same for given period in order to indicate how data for those elections was gathered.

- **notes** – Some potentially useful information regarding composition of coalitions, list submitted by group of voters or methodology used to report the results.

In the data sheet **presidential,** the following variables are included:

- **election_year** – Year when elections were held.
    - Important note: as it happened that two rounds were needed for some elections, values reported here need to be combined with election_history variable to better understand whether it was a new election period or just a second round organized next year (this occurred due to some elections being organized in December and then second round was organized in January next year). For precise date of presidential elections, please consult document "Date of elections in Montenegro" available on the web-site of the MNEE database.

- **election_history** – This variable shows the order of presidential elections from 1990 onwards. As it happened that some elections were organized in two rounds and that these two rounds occurred in two different years, this variable serves to identify which election cycle it was since introduction of multi-party system in 1990. Therefore, value 1 indicates first presidential elections (which occurred in two rounds, both in December 1990), value 2 indicates second presidential elections (organized in two rounds, first in December 1992, second in January 1993), and so on until value 8 which indicates latest elections organized in 2018.

- **candidate** – Name of the presidential candidate. In order to avoid issues with Montenegrin/Serbian/Croat/Bosnian alphabet, letters Š, Č, Ć, Đ, Ž are transliterated into S, C, DJ and Z.

- **candidate_party_coalition** – Name of the party or coalition that presidential candidate represented.

- **votes_won_candidate** – Total amount of votes presidential candidate won.

- **votes_percentage_candidate** – Percentage of votes presidential candidate won.
    - Note: the method of calculating percentage of votes won by the candidates changed over time. For example, for 1990 elections two methods were applied. For the first round, REC reported percentage of votes won as percentage of the total electorate (!), while for the second round this changed so the percentage was related to the total number of votes cast. Since 2008, official reports by SEC list percentages of votes won as percentage of valid votes.
    - In order to keep the consistency in the method of collecting official data, where no data was provided by REC or SEC the value of this variable is left empty so readers can decide which method to follow if making their own calculations.

- **electorate_total** – Size of the electorate for a given period. This number represents the total number of citizens with a right to vote registered in official records.

- **votes_cast** – Total amount of votes cast (valid + invalid).

- **votes_valid** – Number of valid votes cast.

- **source** - Sources from which data on the particular election period were gathered. This information repeats for identical values of election_year variable, i.e. it remains the same for given period in order to indicate how data for those elections were gathered.

- **notes** - Some potentially useful information regarding methodology used to report the results.

Method and Sources Used for Compiling the Dataset

Data for MNEE database is gathered mainly from official reports by Republic Electoral Commission (for period before Independence) and State Electoral Commission (post-2006 period). Where there were missing data or detailed reports could not be found, relevant academic literature and archival newspaper reports were used to complete the dataset.

I - Official Reports by Republic Electoral Commission and State Electoral Commission

All the information in the database concerning names of political parties and coalitions in original, votes won, percentage of votes won, seats won, total votes cast, valid votes, and size of the electorate are gathered from official reports by the Republic Electoral Commission (REC) and State Electoral Commission (SEC)[1]. Some of these reports were located in the archives of the local library, while others were available online, at the website of SEC (www.dik.co.me).

Given that SEC does not keep archives of REC's reports for pre-2006 period under the explanation that it represents "election material older than 5 years,"[2] data from REC was then gathered in the archives of the local library in Podgorica. Priority was given to finding full official REC reports that were usually printed on several pages

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[1] Republic Electoral Commission (ME: *Republička izborna komisija – RIK*) existed during the time Montenegro was part of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (multi-party elections 1990-1992), Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (1992-2003) and later State Union of Serbia and Montenegro (2003-2006). After Montenegrin Independence in 2006, REC was reformed into State Electoral Commission (ME: *Državna izborna komisija - DIK*) which published its first report on presidential elections in 2008 and parliamentary elections in 2009.

[2] Which served as a basis for rejecting my request to access official report on 1990 elections based on the right to access information from a State institution in Montenegro. See official explanation from SEC on my request to access the official report on the results of 1990 elections: https://dik.co.me/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Rjesenja-Lipovina.pdf

and included as a part of the edition of the daily newspaper *Pobjeda* that was issued sometime after the elections.[3]

In addition to full official reports by REC, archival research included finding newspaper articles on selected elections in which it was clearly stated that the given results are reported by the REC at a press conference. Finally, in rare cases when no detailed final results could be found, preliminary results by REC are provided as a second-best option and information on this is given in "notes". In addition, in cases where for some of the named variables no data was found in the official reports by REC or SEC, newspaper reports and academic literature were used to fill in the gap ("notes" variable in the dataset contains details in these cases).

Regarding the more recent period (from 2006 elections up to date), official reports were collected from the official web-site of the SEC, available at the following URL: https://dik.co.me/ . Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the official web site of the SEC does not provide users a complete English translation despite allowing them to select "EN" as a language.

Important notes:

o **Percentage of seats won:** is not reported in official reports, but was calculated separately (except for 1990 elections where it was reported in the newspaper article on the official results).

o **1990 elections:** due to the lack of a detailed report by the REC (e.g., number of votes won was missing), several additional sources were used to compile all the necessary information for that election period. This was also done in order to determine correct number of seats won as this number varied across consulted sources. For example, although most of the scholars researching

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[3] *Pobjeda ("Victory")* was the only daily newspaper in Montenegro until 1997 (when *Vijesti* appeared) and it was owned by the State, hence it included important official publications and announcements. It was privatized in 2014.

elections in Montenegro seem to be referencing otherwise excellent work by Pavićević (1997; 2005; 2007), it appears that Pavićević repeatedly errs in reporting number of seats for 1990 elections by swapping number of seats won by Democratic Coalition (DK) and those won by People's Party (NS). Number of seats reported by REC in its official report that was printed in the Official Gazzette ("Službeni list Socijalističke Republike Crne Gore - br. 49/1990" 1990) as well as that reported by the REC at the press conference on which report was given in the daily newspaper *Pobjeda* both confirm that it was 12 seats for NS and 13 for DK (not the other way around). Here, official report was given priority across sources consulted.

As the number of votes won for each party and coalition was missing from official reports, the missing data was then found in the archived version of the Socialist People's Party web-site that contains results on 1990 elections. Upon further verification, it turned out that abbreviations of all parties and coalitions as well as seats won reported for parties and coalitions that entered Parliament was correct and aligned with available official results. The rest of the data was then taken to be valid as well.

o **Archival editions of the newspapers:** apart from *Pobjeda*, archival work included researching weekly newspaper *Monitor* (1990 – up to date), daily newspaper *Vijesti* (1997 – up to date) and daily newspaper *Dan* (1998 – up to date).

II - Academic literature and newspaper articles on elections

Information on some political parties, coalitions and candidates (such as the date when founded or members of a coalition) was also gathered from the academic literature, OSCE reports (OSCE 1998; 2001; 2002) and articles written by local historians with good insight into the selected period. For example, the book by

Pavićević et al. (2007) was consulted for details on 1990-2006 elections as well as the history of changes of Montenegrin electoral system. Article by Vukićević and Vujović (2012) was used to gather useful data on changes of electoral system, historical data on some political parties and seats won by each party in 1990-2009 period. Finally, newspaper article by Adžić (2019) was used to complete information on parties and coalitions participating in 1990 elections.

Where such sources were used, a note was written to let the users know how exactly data in that particular case was collected.

Comparison of sources

In cases where, among archival material collected, it was found that two or more sources each reported results or information on the candidates or parties, the data from these sources were compared in order to make sure that provided information is correct. For example, this method was used for 1997 presidential elections where both *Pobjeda* and *Vijesti* published national-level and municipal-level results, with *Vijesti* providing information that some polls were at the moment of publishing at 98% of being analyzed, while *Pobjeda* provided final results. After comparison, it turned out that there were no discrepancies at the municipality-level between the results these two sources reported.

How to Cite

To cite this particular dataset, you can use the following format as an example:

Chicago (17ᵗʰ Edition)

Lipovina, Boris. 2021. "Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) Database Project: Dataset on Parliamentary and Presidential Elections (National-Level Results, 1990-2020)." https://electionsinmontenegro.com/

APA (7ᵗʰ Edition)

Lipovina, B. (2021). Montenegrin Elections (MNEE) Database Project: Dataset on Parliamentary and Presidential Elections (National-Level Results, 1990-2020) [Data file]. Retrieved from https://electionsinmontenegro.com/

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    nauka, Sarajevski otvoreni centar, Fakultet političkih nauka - Univerzitet
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