MONTENEGRO

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

August 2020
# Research Methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Collection method:</th>
<th>Telephone and online interviews– CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) and CAWI (Computer Assisted Web Interviewing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Duration of the questionnaire</td>
<td>2 questionnaires of 20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period of realization</td>
<td>August 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample universe</td>
<td>Population 18+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sample size</td>
<td>2 research; 1200 respondents each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampling Frame</td>
<td>Data from the Telephone Directory (Electronic), the 2011 Population Census and Statistical Estimates of the Population for year 2017 (for telephone survey) and IPSOS on-line panel database (for online survey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strata</td>
<td>3 traditional regions: North, Center and South Type of settlement: Urban/ Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strata allocation</td>
<td>Proportional to Census 2011 data and estimated population dynamics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary I

**Montenegro’s overall direction.**
Citizens are split over whether Montenegro is heading in the right or wrong direction, largely among partisan and ethnic lines.

**Top issues.**
Poll respondents prioritize employment (39%), economic development (28%), stemming youth emigration (27%), fighting corruption and crime (20%), and combating the COVID-19 epidemic (18%).

**Election Process/Campaigns.**
Eighty (80) percent express intention to vote in the elections. A strong majority (87%) across the political spectrum objects to partisan hate speech in the election campaign. Approximately 45 percent fear violations and irregularities that could call into question election results.
Summary II

Media.
Public opinion is divided on whether state media reporting on politics is fair and balanced. Television is the primary source of information for voters (81%), followed by the internet, newspapers (70%), and social networks (59%). Thirty-three (33) percent of respondents confirm certain news stories within immediate family/social circles. Twenty (20) percent report engaging in online political discussions.

COVID-19 epidemic.
Nearly 80 percent say that the presence of Covid-19 will not deter them from voting. Combating Covid-19 is seen by the public as the government’s highest priority, albeit at the expense of youth emigration, environmental protection, and media freedom, which the public do not see as top government priorities. Forty (40) percent believe that Covid-19 crisis will take more than a year to surmount.
**Commitment to Democracy.**
Eighty-five (85) percent see Montenegro’s development as a functioning democracy to be important.

**Foreign Relations.**
Citizen favorability of foreign actors— the U.S., the European Union, Russia, China, and NATO—have ebbed since March 2020, with the EU at 49%, Russia (44%), China (35%), NATO (30%), and the U.S. (28%).
General Outlook
In your opinion do you think Montenegro is moving in a right direction or wrong direction?

Base: Total target population
Source: IPSOS omnibus research
How do you assess the current economic situation in Montenegro?

- Very good: 3%
- Somewhat good: 10%
- Good: 13%
- Not good, not bad: 25%
- Bad: 62%
- Somewhat bad: 27%
- Very bad: 35%
- Don't know/Refuse to answer: 1%

Base: Total target population
Which are the three biggest problems faced by Montenegro?

Only answers with percentage >=2% are presented

**First answer**
- Covid 19 pandemic: 18%
- Country’s economic situation: 17%
- Unemployment: 17%
- Happenings related to the Law on...: 16%
- Corruption: 11%
- Position of the young: 4%
- Relationship with Serbia: 3%
- Healthcare: 2%
- Other: 10%
- Everything is a problem: 1%
- None: 0%

**Cumulative answers**
- Country’s economic situation: 42%
- Unemployment: 40%
- Happenings related to the Law on...: 34%
- Covid 19 pandemic: 33%
- Corruption: 26%
- Position of the young: 14%
- Relationship with Serbia: 12%
- Respect of human rights: 9%
- Healthcare: 9%
- Political crisis: 8%
- Education: 6%
- Freedom of media: 4%
- National and personal security: 3%
- Environmental protection: 3%
- European integration: 3%
- Regional stability: 2%
- Other: 4%
- Everything is a problem: 1%
- None: 0%
- Don't know / Refuse to answer: 1%
What does the government pay the MOST/ LEAST attention to? (ordered by citizens’ priorities)

Country’s economic situation: 19% Most, 20% Least
Unemployment: 7% Most, 35% Least
Happenings related to the Law on Religious...: 9% Most, 22% Least
Covid 19 pandemic: 1% Most, 45% Least
Corruption: 5% Most, 21% Least
Position of the young: 3% Most, 23% Least
Relationship with Serbia: 8% Most, 8% Least
Respect of human rights: 4% Most, 12% Least
Healthcare: 11% Most, 8% Least
Political crisis: 4% Most, 9% Least
Education: 4% Most, 12% Least
Freedom of media: 2% Most, 6% Least
National and personal security: 3% Most, 3% Least
Environmental protection: 12% Most, 3% Least
European integration: 2% Most, 13% Least
Regional stability: 5% Most, 2% Least

Maximum three answers
Base: Total target population
Corona virus originated in the Chinese food market and spread out around the world because the Chinese government failed to admit the problem on time

- Yes: 51%
- No: 32%
- Don’t know/Refuse to answer: 17%

Corona virus was developed by the Chinese scientists

- Yes: 35%
- No: 41%
- Don’t know/Refuse to answer: 24%

Corona virus was developed by the US scientists

- Yes: 30%
- No: 45%
- Don’t know/Refuse to answer: 25%
In your opinion, will Montenegro overcome all consequences of the corona-crisis in the next 6 to 12 months?

- Yes: 26%
- It will take a bit longer: 29%
- It will take a lot longer: 40%
- Don’t know/Refuse to answer: 5%

*Base: Total target population*
Parliamentary Elections and the Democratic Process
How likely are you to vote in the August 30 parliamentary elections?

- I would definitely vote: 64%
- I would probably vote: 19%
- Would vote: 83%
- Would not vote: 14%
- I would probably not vote: 6%
- I would definitely not vote: 8%
- Don't know/Refuse to answer: 3%
What you expect to be main issues with the 2020 parliamentary election?

Only answers with percentage >=2% are presented

- Corona virus/ pandemic: 18%
- Vote buying/ corruption: 14%
- Political Tensions (Law on Freedom of Religion / ...): 8%
- Electoral theft: 8%
- Fraud/ electoral fraud: 5%
- Electoral law, out-of-date voter list, voting of people...: 4%
- Blackmailing/ pressuring voters: 3%
- Other: 10%
- Nothing/ there will be no problem: 8%
- Don't know: 25%
- No answer: 3%

Base: Total target population
Thinking about the Covid19 pandemic, what would make you not vote in the August 30 parliamentary election?

- 79% There is nothing Covid19 related that will prevent me from voting
- 9% I am not going to vote because of other reasons
- 8% Other
- 4% Don’t know/Refuse to answer

Base: Total target population
Will the parliamentary elections in August 2020 be democratic?

- 27%: There will be no violations or irregularities
- 44%: There will be some violations or irregularities not effecting the results
- 21%: There will be violations and irregularities that will effect the elections results
- 7%: Don’t know/Refuse to answer

Base: Total target population
When deciding which political party to vote for in the next parliamentary elections, what is important to you?

- Represents people like me: 27%
- Their promises/program: 24%
- Wants to hear my opinion: 22%
- Supports closer ties with EU and USA: 19%
- Strong team: 18%
- Strong leader: 15%
- Their responsiveness combating new coronavirus: 9%
- Supports closer ties with Russia: 9%
- Party that is less bad than others parties: 9%
- Multiple parties presenting themselves as a pre-election…: 7%
- Does not represent the interest of big corporations: 6%
- Don’t know/Refuse to answer: 13%

Maximum three answers
Base: Total target population
Which political party policies do you prioritize?

- Economic development: 32%
- Addressing position of youth/brain drain: 27%
- Fight against corruption and crime: 26%
- Raising the minimum salary: 25%
- Preservation of jobs: 21%
- Continuing of negotiating a resolution with Serbian Orthodox...: 19%
- Raising domestic production (dominant in the agricultural sector): 18%
- Healthcare reform: 12%
- Pension reform: 10%
- Environment protection: 9%
- Entrepreneurship development: 6%
- Attracting foreign investors: 6%
- Opening new chapters with EU: 6%
- Strengthen the army: 3%
- Something else: 6%
- None: 2%
- Don't know/Refusal: 3%

Maximum three responses
Base: Total target population
What are political parties doing at present and what would you like them to do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Would like them to do</th>
<th>Currently doing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Represent citizen’s interests</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep their promises</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet your expectations</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propose reforms</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bring together like minded people</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide leaders for the country</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Represent the interests of big corporations</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Act with impunity</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engage in nepotism</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participate in corruption</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Base: Total target population
To what extent are you concerned by hate speech in the election campaign?

- I am very bothered: 72%
- I am mostly bothered: 15%
- Bothered: 87%
- Not bothered: 11%
- I am mostly not bothered: 3%
- I am not bothered at all: 8%
- Don't know/Refuse to answer: 3%

Base: Total target population
Which characteristics of a functioning democracy are most important?

- A fair employment and business opportunities beyond...: 42%
- Equal justice for all: 41%
- Freedom of religion: 26%
- Free and fair elections: 25%
- Freedom of speech: 24%
- Human rights are protected: 21%
- Government is accountable to citizens: 16%
- Ability to accomplish your needs within the system without...: 14%
- Political parties represent citizen’s interests: 8%
- Government is transparent: 7%
- Other: 4%
- Don’t know/Refuse to answer: 6%

Maximum three answers
Base: Total target population
How important is it that Montenegro become a fully functioning democracy?

- **Very important**: 66%
- **Somewhat important**: 19%
- **Important**: 85%
- **Neither unimportant nor important**: 4%
- **Unimportant**: 4%
- **Somewhat unimportant**: 2%
- **Very unimportant**: 2%
- **Don't know/Refuse to answer**: 2%

*Base: Total target population*
Which statement fits more closely with your view?

- Government should be like an employee, the people are the bosses of the government: 67%
- Government should be like a father, the people should listen to the government: 27%
- Don’t know/Refuse to answer: 6%

*Base: Total target population*
Which statement fits more closely with your view?

- 57%: It is more important to have a transparent tender to construct a highway
- 30%: It is more important to have a highway constructed than to have a transparent tender
- 12%: Don’t know/Refuse to answer

*Base: Total target population*
To what extent do you agree or disagree that the results of the elections will bring changes that matter to you?

- Absolutely agree: 17%
- Mostly agree: 29%
- Agree: 46%
- Neither agree nor disagree: 27%
- Disagree: 18%
- Mostly disagree: 7%
- Absolutely disagree: 11%
- Don't know/Refuse to answer: 9%

*Base: Total target population*
How do you view foreign actors?

- EU
- Russia
- NATO
- USA
- China

Favorable opinion
Media Consumption
Is the media reporting on the political landscape...

- More positive for the ruling coalition: 38%
- Balanced between the ruling coalition and the opposition parties: 37%
- More positive for the opposition: 8%
- Don’t know/Refuse to answer: 17%

*Base: Total target population*
Where would you turn to verify a news item that you heard about?

- Friends/family/colleagues: 35%
- Subject-matter experts: 14%
- A TV news station: 11%
- An online news portal: 10%
- Education: 7%
- Facebook and other similar social networks: 5%
- A newspaper: 2%
- Non-political public figures: 1%
- A politician’s statement: 1%
- The radio: 0%
- Other: 5%
- I wouldn’t go to anyone: 3%
- Don't know/Refuse to answer: 6%

*Base: Total target population*