

# Ethnologue: Languages of Montenegro

## Twenty-sixth edition data

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## List of Abbreviations

A	Agent in constituent word order
<i>alt.</i>	alternate name for
<i>alt. dial.</i>	alternate dialect name for
AOV	Agent-Object-Verb
C	Consonant in canonical syllable patterns
CDE	Convention against Discrimination in Education (1960)
<i>Class</i>	Language classification
CPPDCE	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)
CSICH	Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003)
DBS	Deaf Bible Society
<i>dial.</i>	primary dialect name for
DOOR	Deaf Opportunity Outreach
ECRML	European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (1992)
FCPNM	Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (1998)
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
km	kilometer(s)
L1 / L2	first language / second (or other additional) language
<i>Lg Dev</i>	Language development
<i>Lg Use</i>	Language use
m	meter(s)
P	Patient in constituent word order
PARADISEC	Pacific And Regional Archive for Digital Sources In Endangered Cultures
<i>pej.</i>	pejorative
pl.	plural
S	Subject in constituent word order
sg.	singular
SIL	SIL International
<i>Type</i>	Typological information
UNCRPD	United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006)
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
V	Vowel in canonical syllable patterns

## How to Use This Digest

This *Ethnologue* country digest provides an extract of the information about the language situation in Montenegro that is published in the 26th edition of *Ethnologue: Languages of the World* (see <http://www.ethnologue.com>), including some ways of presenting the information that are not available in the online version. The digest begins with a “Country Overview” (page 6) and “Statistical Summaries” (page 8) of languages and number of speakers by language size, by language status, and by language family.

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) provides detailed information on the 13 languages listed in the *Ethnologue* for the country of Montenegro. This includes languages that are indigenous to the country, languages that have developed well-established multigenerational speaker communities after immigrating in the past, and languages that have a significant presence in the country but are not established (that is, not being transmitted to the next generation within the country). A complete language entry has the following form and content:

**Primary language name** [ISO 639-3 code] (Alternate names). Autonym. *Users*: Country user population. Population stability comment. Population remarks. Monolingual population. Ethnic population. *Location*: Location. *Status*: EGIDS level. Special cases. Language function in country. *Class*: Linguistic classification. Macrolanguage membership. *Dialects*: Dialect names. Intelligibility and dialect relations. Lexical similarity. *Type*: Linguistic typology information. *Lg Use*: Remarks on use of the language. Domains of use. User age range. Language attitudes. Bilingualism remarks. Use as second language. *Lg Dev*: Literacy rates. Literacy remarks. Use in education. Publications and use in media. Revitalization efforts. Language development agencies. *DLS*: Digital support. *Writing*: Scripts used. *Other*: Non-indigenous. General remarks. Religion. *Worldwide*: Total population in all countries. Other countries where used.

See <http://www.ethnologue.com/methodology/#languagePages> for a full description of these information elements. If the autonym contains the “?” character, this indicates a complex non-Roman character that the PDF-creating software we are using is not able to render. We regret the inconvenience.

Many ways of finding languages are provided. “Languages by Population” (page 15) lists the languages in order of their first-language speaker populations. “Languages by Status” (page 17) lists the languages by their level of development or endangerment as measured on EGIDS, the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). “Languages by Family” (page 19) lists the languages by their linguistic classifications. “Language Code Index” (page 20) gives an alphabetical listing of all the three-letter codes from ISO 639-3 that are used in this digest to uniquely identify languages. “Language Name Index” (page 21) lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. A total of 29 unique names are associated with the 13 languages described in this digest.

Finally, a listing of all the published sources cited within this digest is found in “Bibliography”

(page 22). The published sources are cited using standard in-text citations enclosed in parentheses, consisting of the author's or editor's surname followed by the year of publication. Unpublished sources including personal communications and unpublished reports are also acknowledged when specific statements or facts are attributed to them. They are identified using in-text citations enclosed in parentheses in which the year of the communication is given first, followed by the source's first initial and surname. In such a case, there is no corresponding entry in the bibliography.

This digest is designed for use in both digital and print formats. The cross-references are thus rendered as page numbers that are hyperlinks. When using the document in printed form, simply turn to the referenced page by number. When using it in digital form, click on the blue text to jump to the cross-referenced location.

If you believe any of the information about a language in this digest is in error or if you are able to supply missing information, please send your proposed change to the editor using one of the means given below. Provide as much information as possible about the source of your information. Full bibliographic details of published sources are especially helpful.

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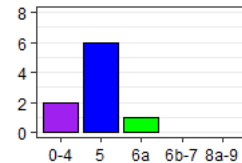
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## Country Overview

Name of country	Montenegro
Other names	Republic of Montenegro
Population	628,000 (2021 UNDESA)
Principal language	Montenegrin
Literacy rate	99% (2018 UNESCO)
International conventions	CDE (2007), CPPDCE (2008), CSICH (2009), ECRML (2006), FCPNM (2001), ICCPR (2006), UNCRPD (2009)
General references	Comrie 1987, Stephens 1976

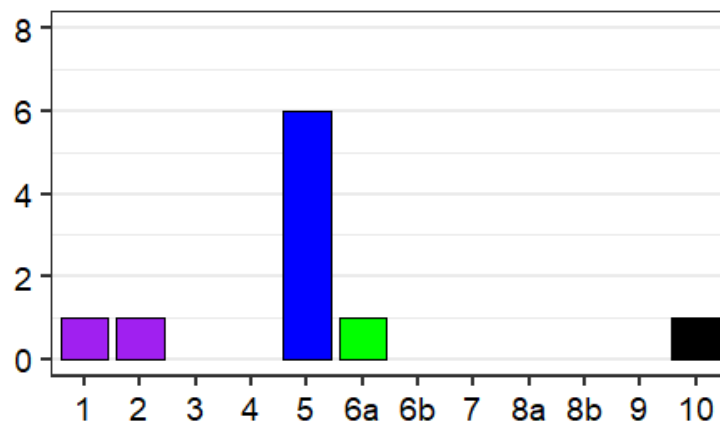
Language counts	<p>The number of established languages listed for Montenegro is 10. Of these, 9 are living and 1 is extinct. Of the living languages, 6 are indigenous and 3 are non-indigenous. Furthermore, 2 are institutional, 6 are developing, and 1 is vigorous. Also listed are 3 unestablished languages.</p>
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See the next page for an explanation of the summary categories for language vitality used in the above counts and graph.

## Language Status Profile

The following histogram gives a graphic profile of the established languages in Montenegro with respect to their status of language development versus language endangerment. This includes all of the languages appearing in the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) that report an EGIDS level after *Status*; macrolanguages and unestablished languages are not included in the profile. The horizontal axis plots the estimated level of development or endangerment as measured on the EGIDS scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The height of each bar indicates the number of languages that are estimated to be at the given level. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 17) in order to see the specific languages for each level.



The color coding of the bars in the histogram above matches the color scheme used in the summary profile graph on the preceding page. In this scheme, the EGIDS levels are grouped as follows:

- Purple = Institutional (EGIDS 0–4) — The language has been developed to the point that it is used and sustained by institutions beyond the home and community.
- Blue = Developing (EGIDS 5) — The language is in vigorous use, with literature in a standardized form being used by some though this is not yet widespread or sustainable.
- Green = Vigorous (EGIDS 6a) — The language is in vigorous use among all generations and remains unstandardized.
- Yellow = In trouble (EGIDS 6b–7) — Intergenerational transmission is in the process of being broken, but the child-bearing generation can still use the language so it is possible that revitalization efforts could restore transmission of the language in the home.
- Red = Dying (EGIDS 8a–9) — The only fluent users (if any) are older than child-bearing age, so it is too late to restore natural intergenerational transmission through the home; a mechanism outside the home would need to be developed.
- Black = Extinct (EGIDS 10) — The language is no longer used and no one retains a sense of ethnic identity associated with the language.

## Statistical Summaries

The “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) provides a detailed listing of all the languages of Montenegro. This section steps back from the detail to offer a summary view of the language situation in the country. Specifically, it offers three numerical tabulations of the living established languages of Montenegro and their users: by language size, by language status, and by language family.

### Summary by language size

Table 1 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Montenegro by number of L1 speakers. The *Population range* column categorizes the sizes of the languages by order of magnitude (in terms of the number of digits in the population of first-language speakers). Consult “Languages by Population” (page 15) for a listing of the specific languages in each range category.

The *Count* column gives the number of living established languages within the specified population range. The *Percent* column gives the share of the count for that population range as a percentage of the total number of languages given at the bottom of the Count column. The *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sum of the percentage of languages going from top to bottom in the column.

The *Total* column gives the total L1 population of all the languages in the given range category. The second *Percent* column gives the percentage of the total country population as estimated at the bottom of the Total column. Note that if the table has a row for Unknown, representing languages for which the *Ethnologue* does not have a population estimate, the calculation of population percentage is not able to take those languages into account. The final *Cumulative* column gives the cumulative sums of the population percentages going from top to bottom in the column.

**Table 1:** Distribution of languages by number of first-language speakers

Population range	Living languages			Number of speakers		
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative
100,000 to 999,999	2	22.2	22.2%	496,000	86.14551	86.14551%
10,000 to 99,999	2	22.2	44.4%	69,400	12.05342	98.19893%
1,000 to 9,999	3	33.3	77.8%	10,180	1.76807	99.96700%
100 to 999	1	11.1	88.9%	190	0.03300	100.00000%
Unknown	1	11.1	100.0%			
<i>Totals</i>	9	100.0		575,770	100.00000	

## Summary by language status

Table 2 summarizes the distribution of living established languages in Montenegro by their status in terms of language development or language endangerment. The *EGIDS* column categorizes the languages by their level on the EGIDS scale. Consult “Languages by Status” (page 17) for a listing of the specific languages that have been assigned to each level. Note that the EGIDS level reported here is for the status of the language in Montenegro. Languages that are also used in other countries may be assigned to a different EGIDS level in those countries.

The next six columns are as in Table 1. In addition, the *Mean* column gives the average L1 population of all the languages with the given EGIDS level and the *Median* column gives the median L1 population for the languages at that level, that is, half of the languages at that level have a higher population and half have a lower population. If there are any languages with an unknown population, these are ignored in the calculation of the mean and the median.

**Table 2:** Distribution of languages by vitality status

EGIDS	Living languages			Number of speakers					
	Count	Percent	Cumulative	Total	Percent	Cumulative	Mean	Median	
1	1	11.1	11.1%	230,000	39.9465	39.9465%	230,000	230,000	
2	1	11.1	22.2%	32,700	5.6794	45.6259%	32,700	32,700	
5	6	66.7	88.9%	311,070	54.0268	99.6526%	51,845	5,170	
6a	1	11.1	100.0%	2,000	0.3474	100.0000%	2,000	2,000	
<i>Totals</i>	9	100.0		575,770	100.0000				

## Summary by language family

The genealogical classifications given in the language entries of the “Alphabetical Listing of Languages” (page 10) name 2 different top-level groups. Table 3 summarizes the distribution of living established languages and their L1 populations within these families. The columns are as for table 2, with the exception that *Cumulative* is excluded since there is no inherent ordering of the families.

**Table 3:** Distribution of languages by language family

Language family	Living languages		Number of speakers			
	Count	Percent	Total	Percent	Mean	Median
Indo-European	8	88.9	573,770	99.7	71,721	32,700
Sign language	1	11.1	2,000	0.3	2,000	2,000
<i>Totals</i>	9	100.0	575,770	100.0		

## Alphabetical Listing of Languages

**Albanian, Gheg** [aln] (Geg, Gegnisht, Shqip, Shqyp). Autonym: Gegnisht. *Users*: 32,700 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in Tuzi City Municipality, Plav Municipality, Ulcinj Municipality (2006, Statute No. 5-06, Article 9). Recognized language (2007, Constitution, Article 13). *Class*: Indo-European, Albanian, Gheg. *Dialect*: Northwest Gheg. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head initial; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite article affix; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; 29 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Taught in a few primary and secondary schools. Literature. Newspapers. Dictionary. Grammar. NT: 1869–1990. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Muslim, Christian. *Map*: 14:5. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 4,239,280. Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Albania, North Macedonia, Serbia. Also established in: Romania, Turkey. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States.

**Bosnian** [bos]. *Users*: 36,700 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Location*: Gusinje, Petrijica, Plav, and Rožaje municipalities. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). Recognized language (2006, Minority Rights Law, No. 31-06, Article 2). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Western. *Dialects*: Ijekavian, Ikavian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); vestiges of dual number; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number, gender of subject (in past tense); passives; tense and aspect; 25 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes; pitch stress. *Lg Dev*: Dictionary. Bible: 2013–2021. *Writing*: Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Other*: Influences from Turkish [tur] and Arabic [arb]. *Map*: 14:2. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 2,618,390 (as L1: 2,608,490; as L2: 9,900). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also established in: Croatia, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia. Unestablished in: Australia, Austria, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United States.

**Croatian** [hrv] (Hrvatski, Serbo-Croatian). Autonym: Hrvatski. *Users*: 3,010 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Location*: Kotor and Tivat municipalities. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). Recognized language (2006, Minority Rights Law, No. 31-06, Article 2). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Western. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; comparatives; 25 consonants, 5 vowels, 2 diphthongs; tonal (4 tones), stress is connected with tone. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1831–1999. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Map*: 14:4. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 6,758,610 (as L1: 5,474,510; as L2: 1,284,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: Austria, Croatia. Also established in: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Canada, Czechia,

Denmark, Germany, Italy, North Macedonia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United States.

**Dalmatian** [dlm] (Dalmatic, Dalmatico, Dalmato, Dalmatski, Langa Dalmata, Lingua Dalmatica). Autonym: Dalmato, Langa Dalmata. *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Montenegro. *Location*: Kotor municipality: Bay of Kotor. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian. *Dialect*: Ragusan. *Lg Dev*: Grammar. *Writing*: Latin script, used between 13th and 19th centuries. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known. Also indigenous in: Croatia.

**English** [eng]. Autonym: English. *Users*: 130,190 in Montenegro, all users. L1 users: 190 in Montenegro (2011 census). L2 users: 130,000 (2011 census). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, English. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; articles, adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; word order distinguishes subject, object, indirect objects, given and new information, topic and comment; active and passive; causative; comparative; consonant and vowel clusters; 24 consonants, 13 vowels, 8 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress; phrasal verbs. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in many primary and secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1382–2002. *Writing*: Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Ireland, United Kingdom. Also established in 167 other countries and unestablished in 16 more.

**French** [fra]. Autonym: français. *Users*: 12,900 in Montenegro (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final for common adjectives, numbers, possessives, but most attributive adjectives come after the noun; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 20 consonant and 14 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; syllable-timed stress. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1530–2000. *Writing*: Braille script. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Andorra, Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Monaco, Switzerland. Also established in 95 other countries and unestablished in 24 more.

**German, Standard** [deu]. Autonym: Deutsch. *Users*: 14,000 in Montenegro (2011 census), L2 users. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Germanic, West, High German, German, Middle German, East Middle German. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); definite and indefinite articles; case-marking (4 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 22 consonants, 22 vowels, 3 diphthongs; non-tonal; stress on first syllable of the root. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1466–2016. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users

in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Italy. Also established in 40 other countries and unestablished in 22 more.

**Italian** [ita]. Autonym: Italiano. *Users*: 24,100 in Montenegro (2011 census), L2 users. *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; gender (masculine/feminine); definite and indefinite articles; verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense; comparatives; 23 consonant and 7 vowel phonemes; non-tonal; stress mostly on penultimate syllable. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in some secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1471–1985. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Indigenous in: Croatia, Italy, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland. Also established in 12 other countries and unestablished in 34 more.

**Montenegrin** [cnr] (Serbo-Croatian). *Users*: 230,000 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 1 (National). Statutory national language (2007, Constitution, Article 13). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Western. A member of macrolanguage Serbo-Croatian [hbs] (Serbia). *Lg Dev*: Taught in most primary and secondary schools. Grammar. *DLS*: Ascending (0.24). *Writing*: Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Map*: 14:3. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 266,520. Also established in: Serbia. Unestablished in: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Germany, Luxembourg, Slovenia.

**Montenegrin Sign Language** [ysl] (Montenegro Sign Language, YSL, Yugoslav Sign Language, Yugoslavian Sign Language). *Users*: 2,000 in Montenegro (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 1,200–2,400 deaf signers, based on 0.2%–0.4% of total population. *Location*: Scattered. *Status*: 6a\* (Vigorous). *Class*: Sign language, Deaf community sign language. *Dialects*: None known. Degree of variation with other former Yugoslavian countries is unknown, but reportedly minor. Fingerspelling alphabets vary considerably throughout the Balkans (one- vs. two-handed, Latin vs. Cyrillic, 2020 B. van der Louw). *Type*: Fingerspelling alphabet based on French Sign Language [fsl]. *Lg Use*: Some also use Montenegrin [cnr]. *Lg Dev*: TV. Theater. Videos. Dictionary. *Other*: Origin from deaf schools in Austria and Hungary. Since the breakup of Yugoslavia, each area has tended to distinguish its variety from the others, with its own name. The ISO 639-3 standard has not yet been adjusted to reflect these changes, treating all sign languages in the former Yugoslavia (with the exception of Croatian Sign Language [csq]) as dialects of Yugoslavian Sign Language [ysl]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,000. Global EGIDS level: 5 (Developing). Also indigenous in: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bosnian Sign Language), North Macedonia (Macedonian Sign Language), Serbia (Serbian Sign Language), Slovenia (Slovenian Sign Language).

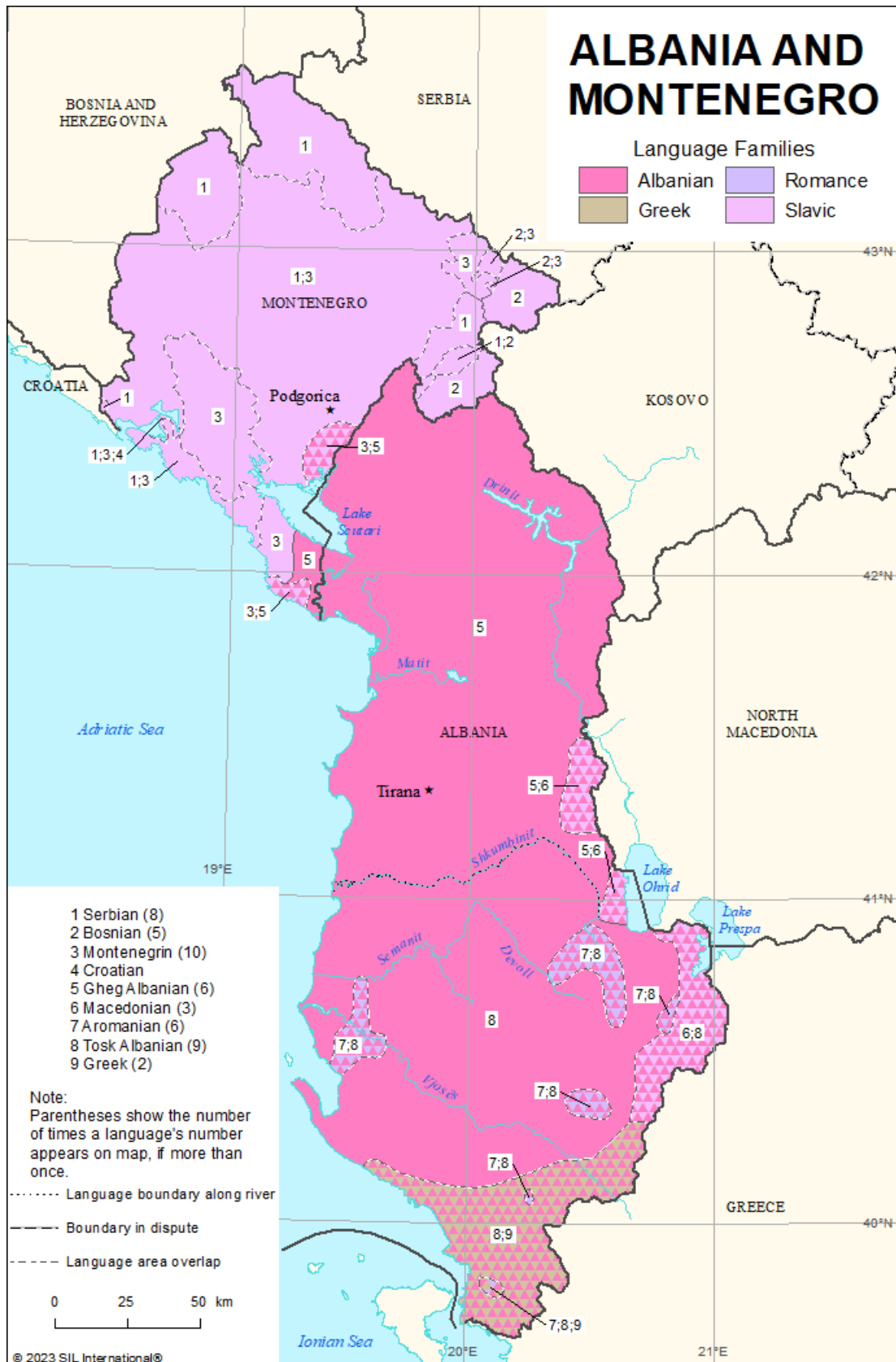
**Romani, Balkan** [rmn] (Romani čhib). Autonym: Romani, Romani čhib. *Users*: 5,170 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Location*: Berane, Bijelo Polje, Herceg Novi, Nikšić, and Podgorica municipalities. *Status*: 5\* (Developing). *Class*: Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Balkan. *Dialect*: Arli. *Lg Dev*: Printed or

pre-recorded Romani language materials may not be understandable outside the country (or context of surrounding languages) in which they were produced. Literature. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible: 2015. *Writing*: Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, used in Greece. Latin script, used in Serbia. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000). Indigenous in: Serbia. Also established in: Bulgaria, Greece, Iran, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine. Unestablished in: France, Germany, Italy, Sweden.

**Russian** [rus]. *Users*: 150,030 in Montenegro, all users. L1 users: 1,030 in Montenegro (2011 census). L2 users: 149,000 (Arefyev 2012). *Status*: Unestablished. *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, East. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; genitives after noun heads; adjectives, numerals before noun heads; question word initial; 1 prefix on a word; recursive addition of suffixes allowed; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (6 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; comparatives; 32 consonants, 5 vowels, 4 diphthongs; non-tonal; free stress. *Lg Dev*: Taught as subject in some secondary schools. Fully developed. Bible: 1876–2011. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Other*: Non-indigenous. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980). Global EGIDS level: 0 (International). Indigenous in: Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, Ukraine. Also established in 17 other countries and unestablished in 29 more.

**Serbian** [srp] (Serbo-Croatian). *Users*: 266,000 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Location*: Widespread. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Class*: Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Western. *Type*: SVO; prepositions; noun head final; gender (masculine/feminine/neuter); no articles; case-marking (7 cases); verb affixes mark person, number; passives; tense and aspect; causatives; comparatives; 25 consonant and 5 vowel phonemes, the ‘r’ also functioning as a vocalic (or syllabic) consonant; nontonal. *Lg Dev*: Fully developed. Bible: 1804–1868. *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script. *Other*: Muslim. *Map*: 14:1. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800). Global EGIDS level: 1 (National). Also indigenous in: North Macedonia, Serbia. Also established in: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Turkey. Unestablished in: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Czechia, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy, Libya, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Zambia.

# Language Map



## Languages by Population

In this section the languages of Montenegro are listed in order of their population of first-language speakers within the country, from highest to lowest. The entries report just the population and status elements.

### 100,000 to 999,999

**Serbian** [[srp](#)] *Users:* 266,000 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800).

**Montenegrin** [[cnr](#)] *Users:* 230,000 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* 1 (National). Statutory national language (2007, Constitution, Article 13). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 266,520.

### 10,000 to 99,999

**Bosnian** [[bos](#)] *Users:* 36,700 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). Recognized language (2006, Minority Rights Law, No. 31-06, Article 2). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,618,390 (as L1: 2,608,490; as L2: 9,900).

**Albanian, Gheg** [[aln](#)] *Users:* 32,700 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* 2 (Provincial). Statutory provincial language in Tuzi City Municipality, Plav Municipality, Ulcinj Municipality (2006, Statute No. 5-06, Article 9). Recognized language (2007, Constitution, Article 13). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,239,280.

### 1,000 to 9,999

**Romani, Balkan** [[rnm](#)] *Users:* 5,170 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* 5\* (Developing). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000).

**Croatian** [[hrv](#)] *Users:* 3,010 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* 5\* (Dispersed). Recognized language (2006, Minority Rights Law, No. 31-06, Article 2). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 6,758,610 (as L1: 5,474,510; as L2: 1,284,100).

**Montenegrin Sign Language** [[ysl](#)] *Users:* 2,000 in Montenegro (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL). Estimated 1,200–2,400 deaf signers, based on 0.2%–0.4% of total population. *Status:* 6a\* (Vigorous). *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 25,000.

**Russian** [[rus](#)] *Users:* 1,030 in Montenegro (2011 census). 150,030 in Montenegro, all users. L2 users: 149,000 (Arefyev 2012). *Status:* Unestablished. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

**100 to 999**

**English** [[eng](#)] *Users*: 190 in Montenegro (2011 census). 130,190 in Montenegro, all users. L2 users: 130,000 (2011 census). *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

**0**

**Dalmatian** [[dlm](#)] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Montenegro. *Status*: 10 (Extinct). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known.

**Unknown**

**French** [[fra](#)] *Users*: L2 users: 12,900 in Montenegro (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Status*: 5\* (Dispersed). *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

**German, Standard** [[deu](#)] *Users*: L2 users: 14,000 in Montenegro (2011 census), L2 users. *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

**Italian** [[ita](#)] *Users*: L2 users: 24,100 in Montenegro (2011 census), L2 users. *Status*: Unestablished. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

## Languages by Status

In this section the languages of Montenegro are listed in order of their status within the country as represented by their level on the EGIDs scale (Lewis and Simons 2010). The language entries are reduced to just the information elements that are relevant to assessing the EGIDS level: population, status, language use, language development, and writing.

### 1 (National)

**Montenegrin** [cnr] *Users:* 230,000 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* Statutory national language (2007, Constitution, Article 13). *Lg Dev:* Grammar. *Writing:* Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 266,520.

### 2 (Provincial)

**Albanian, Gheg** [aln] *Users:* 32,700 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* Statutory provincial language in Tuzi City Municipality, Plav Municipality, Ulcinj Municipality (2006, Statute No. 5-06, Article 9). Recognized language (2007, Constitution, Article 13). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 4,239,280.

### 5 (Developing)

**Romani, Balkan** [rmn] *Users:* 5,170 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Writing:* Cyrillic script, used in Bulgaria. Greek script, used in Greece. Latin script, used in Serbia. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 803,740 (as L1: 603,740; as L2: 200,000).

### 5 (Dispersed)

**Bosnian** [bos] *Users:* 36,700 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* Recognized language (2006, Minority Rights Law, No. 31-06, Article 2). *Writing:* Arabic script, Naskh variant, no longer in use. Cyrillic script. Latin script. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 2,618,390 (as L1: 2,608,490; as L2: 9,900).

**Croatian** [hrv] *Users:* 3,010 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Status:* Recognized language (2006, Minority Rights Law, No. 31-06, Article 2). *Writing:* Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 6,758,610 (as L1: 5,474,510; as L2: 1,284,100).

**English** [eng] *Users:* 130,190 in Montenegro, all users. L1 users: 190 in Montenegro (2011 census). L2 users: 130,000 (2011 census). *Writing:* Braille script. Deseret Alphabet, developed in 1854 with limited usage until 1877. Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. Shavian (Shaw) script, no longer in use. *Worldwide:* Total users in all countries: 1,456,448,320 (as L1: 379,682,200; as L2: 1076,766,120).

**French** [fra] *Users:* 12,900 in Montenegro (Marcoux et al 2022), L2 users. *Writing:* Braille script.

Duployan shorthand. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 309,804,220 (as L1: 80,770,190; as L2: 229,034,030).

**Serbian** [srp] *Users*: 266,000 in Montenegro (2011 census). *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. Latin script. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 10,213,776 (as L1: 10,193,976; as L2: 19,800).

## 6a (Vigorous)

**Montenegrin Sign Language** [ysl] *Users*: 2,000 in Montenegro (2021 DBS/DOOR/SIL).

Estimated 1,200–2,400 deaf signers, based on 0.2%–0.4% of total population. *Lg Use*: Some also use Montenegrin [cnr]. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 25,000.

## 10 (Extinct)

**Dalmatian** [dlm] *Users*: No known L1 speakers in Montenegro. *Writing*: Latin script, used between 13th and 19th centuries. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: none known.

## Unestablished

**German, Standard** [deu] *Users*: 14,000 in Montenegro (2011 census), L2 users. *Writing*: Braille script. Latin script, primary usage. Latin script, Fraktur variant, used until 1940. Runic script, no longer in use. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 133,245,880 (as L1: 75,282,080; as L2: 57,963,800).

**Italian** [ita] *Users*: 24,100 in Montenegro (2011 census), L2 users. *Writing*: Braille script, used since 1974. Latin script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 67,935,480 (as L1: 64,647,380; as L2: 3,288,100).

**Russian** [rus] *Users*: 150,030 in Montenegro, all users. L1 users: 1,030 in Montenegro (2011 census). L2 users: 149,000 (Arefyev 2012). *Writing*: Braille script. Cyrillic script, primary usage. *Worldwide*: Total users in all countries: 254,997,130 (as L1: 146,954,150; as L2: 107,987,980).

## Languages by Family

This index gives an alphabetical listing of the linguistic classifications used for the established languages of Montenegro. The entries in this index represent the full path in the linguistic family tree from the highest level grouping down to the lowest. All the languages listed in the same entry are members of the same lowest-level subgroup. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language.

### **Indo-European, Albanian, Gheg**

Albanian, Gheg [aln], [10](#)

### **Indo-European, Balto-Slavic, Slavic, South, Western**

Bosnian [bos], [10](#)

Croatian [hrv], [10](#)

Montenegrin [cnr], [12](#)

Serbian [srp], [13](#)

### **Indo-European, Germanic, West, English**

English [eng], [11](#)

### **Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, Indo-Aryan, Intermediate Divisions, Western, Romani, Balkan**

Romani, Balkan [rmn], [12](#)

### **Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Italo-Dalmatian**

Dalmatian [dlm], [11](#)

### **Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Italo-Western, Western, Gallo-Iberian, Gallo-Romance, Gallo-Rhaetian, Oïl, French**

French [fra], [11](#)

### **Sign language, Deaf community sign language**

Slovenian Sign Language [ysl], [12](#)

## Language Code Index

This index gives an alphabetical listing of all 13 three-letter codes that are used in this work to uniquely identify languages. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. All codes listed are part of the ISO 639-3 standard; see <http://www.sil.org/iso639-3/>.

<b>aln</b>	Albanian, Gheg, <a href="#">10</a>	<b>hrv</b>	Croatian, <a href="#">10</a>
<b>bos</b>	Bosnian, <a href="#">10</a>	<b>ita</b>	Italian, <a href="#">12</a>
<b>cnr</b>	Montenegrin, <a href="#">12</a>	<b>rmn</b>	Romani, Balkan, <a href="#">12</a>
<b>deu</b>	German, Standard, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>rus</b>	Russian, <a href="#">13</a>
<b>dln</b>	Dalmatian, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>srp</b>	Serbian, <a href="#">13</a>
<b>eng</b>	English, <a href="#">11</a>	<b>ysl</b>	Slovenian Sign Language, <a href="#">12</a>
<b>fra</b>	French, <a href="#">11</a>		

## Language Name Index

This index lists every name that appears in the language listings as a primary or alternate name of a language or dialect. The following abbreviations are used in the index entries: *alt.* ‘alternate name for’; *alt. dial.* ‘alternate name for a dialect of’; *dial.* ‘primary name for a dialect of’; *pej. alt.* ‘pejorative alternate name for’; and *pej. alt. dial.* ‘pejorative alternate name for a dialect of’. Each index entry resolves to the primary name for the language with which the indexed name is associated, followed by square brackets containing the unique three-letter language code from ISO 639-3. The referenced page contains the main entry that describes the language. If the language appears on a map, the entry for the primary name also lists page numbers for the maps on which the language occurs.

- Albanian, Gheg** [aln], 10, 14  
     *see* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Arli**, *dial.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 12
- Bosnian** [bos], 10, 14
- Croatian** [hrv], 10, 14
- Dalmatian** [dlm], 11
- Dalmatic**, *alt.* Dalmatian [dlm], 11
- Dalmatico**, *alt.* Dalmatian [dlm], 11
- Dalmato**, *alt.* Dalmatian [dlm], 11
- Dalmatski**, *alt.* Dalmatian [dlm], 11
- English** [eng], 11
- French** [fra], 11
- Geg**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Gegnisht**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Standard German**, *see* German, Standard [deu], 11
- Hrvatski**, *alt.* Croatian [hrv], 10
- Ijekavian**, *dial.* Bosnian [bos], 10
- Ikavian**, *dial.* Bosnian [bos], 10
- Langa Dalmata**, *alt.* Dalmatian [dlm], 11
- Lingua Dalmatica**, *alt.* Dalmatian [dlm], 11
- Montenegrin** [cnr], 12, 14
- Montenegrin Sign Language** [ysl], 12, 0
- Montenegro Sign Language**, *alt.* Slovenian Sign Language [ysl], 12
- Northwest Gheg**, *dial.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Ragusan**, *dial.* Dalmatian [dlm], 11
- Romani čhib**, *alt.* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 12
- Romani, Balkan** [rmn], 12  
     *see* Romani, Balkan [rmn], 12
- Serbian** [srp], 13, 14
- Serbo-Croatian**, *alt.* Croatian [hrv], 10  
     *alt.* Montenegrin [cnr], 12  
     *alt.* Serbian [srp], 13
- Shqip**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- Shqyp**, *alt.* Albanian, Gheg [aln], 10
- YSL**, *alt.* Slovenian Sign Language [ysl], 12
- Yugoslav Sign Language**, *alt.* Slovenian Sign Language [ysl], 12
- Yugoslavian Sign Language**, *alt.* Slovenian Sign Language [ysl], 12

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