

Montenegro

Montenegro formed a federation with Serbia in 1992 which was transformed in 2003 into a more decentralized state union of Serbia and Montenegro. In May 2006, following a referendum, Montenegro became an independent state. There is no regional governance and at the local level there are twenty-one *opština* (municipalities) (C 1992, Art. 66; C 2007, Art. 22; Law No. 42/ 2003). A Law adopted in 2011 established three regional planning regions at the NUTS-III level for statistical purposes (Council of Europe: Montenegro 2015; Law No. 54/2011).

The Constitution defines the city of *Podgorica* as the capital and the city of *Cetinje* as the ‘Old Royal Capital’ (C 1992, Art. 6 and C 2007, Art. 5). Both cities have their own law but their legal powers are the same as for other municipalities (Council of Europe: Montenegro 2010, 2015; Law No. 42/2003, Art. 18). *Podgorica* can establish urban municipalities (*gradske opštine*) within its territory and there are two since 2006, i.e. *Golubovci* and *Tuzi* (Law No. 42/2003, Art. 2 and No. 65/2005, Art. 19; Council of Europe: Montenegro 2015). The two *gradske opštine* form a minority of the total population in the capital city, about 15,200 out of a total population of 186,000 (around eight per cent). Most articles in the law on the capital city are devoted to coordinate the competences between the city and the two urban municipalities but some stipulations oblige *Podgorica* to collaborate with central state institutions on issues such as diplomatic missions, international organizations, public order, and security (Council of Europe: Montenegro 2015; Law No. 65/2005, Arts. 6–10). *Podgorica* does not meet the threshold for regional government.^β

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