

Country Profile

SERBIA and MONTENEGRO

DRAFT VERSION

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List of Acronyms:

SCG	Serbia and Montenegro
SCS	Serbian-Croatia-Slovenia
AVNOJ	The Anti-fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia
DFJ	Democratic Federal Yugoslavia
FNRJ	Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia
SFRJ	Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
SDS	Serbian Democratic Party
FRY	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
WWII	Second world war
FYROM	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
UN	United Nations
USD	United States Dollar
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
SUS	Student Union of Serbia
OSS	Youth council of Serbia - Omladinski Savet Srbije
SPS	Socialist Party of Serbia
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
DOS	Democratic Opposition of Serbia
SEE	South East Europe
MoES	Ministry of Education and sport
BUNT	Belgrade in new wave - Beograd u novom talasu
EU	European Union
WB	World Bank
CD	Compact disk

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Basic information

The state union of Serbia and Montenegro (SCG) is made up of two member states, the state of Montenegro and the state of Serbia that includes the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (also see: <http://www.vojvodina.sr.gov.yu/Engleski/index.htm>) and the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija (also see: <http://www.osce.org/kosovo/>) which is currently under an international administration in accordance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244.

POSITION

Serbia and Montenegro is situated in South-East Europe, on the Balkan peninsula with access to the Adriatic Sea.

AREA

Serbia and Montenegro covers a territory of 102,173 sq. km. Serbia covers an area of 88,361 sq. km. whereas the area of Montenegro is 13,812 sq. km.

CAPITAL CITY

Belgrade population 1,574,000 Capital city of the Serbia and Montenegro and Republic of Serbia

Podgorica population 159 000 Capital city of the Republic of Montenegro

Novi Sad, population 304.519

Pristina population 204 500

Nis, population 251.800

BORDERS

The length of the borders of Serbia and Montenegro is 2,585,894 km and the length of the coastline is 294-km. Serbia and Montenegro borders on Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Albania and Macedonia.

TERRAIN

The northern part is, for the most part, flat country, the central part is hilly and mountainous and the southern part is littoral.

CLIMATE

The climate varies from Mediterranean along the Adriatic coast and in the south of the country to continental and temperate further north and inland. Maximum summer (June to August) temperatures are around 26 degrees Celsius on the plains and on the coast - though it can get much hotter than this; in the mountains 17 degrees Celsius is the average. In winter (November to February) the mountains get down to -3 degrees Celsius, while the plains are a slightly more bearable 0 degrees Celsius, although a cold wind often blows across Belgrade. Here, the rain does not stay mainly in the plain, with about three times as much falling on the mountains as on the flat spots.

CURRENCY

The legal tender in Serbia is the Dinar and in Montenegro - the Euro.

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Bank notes:

5000, 1000, 200, 100, 50, 20 and 10 Dinars

Coins:

50 Para, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 Dinars

EXCHANGE RATE:

1EURO = 66Dinars¹ CSM (also see: <http://www.nbs.org.yu/english/news/index.htm> for daily updated exchange rate)

5000-dinar Banknote issued by the National Bank of Serbia - Portrait of Slobodan Jovanović

POPULATION

NUMBER OF INHABITANTS:

Serbia and Montenegro has a population of 8,370 000 inhabitants (without Kosovo and Metohija). The number of inhabitants of Serbia (without Kosovo and Metohija) is 7 721 000. Montenegro has a population of 651 000 inhabitants.

NATIONAL MAKE-UP

Serbs account for 66 percent of the population of Serbia and Montenegrins for 61.9 percent of the inhabitants of Montenegro. In addition to Serbs and Montenegrins that are the most numerous in their respective member states, the following national minorities live in Serbia and Montenegro: Albanians; Hungarians; Romanians; Roma; Slovaks, etc. National minorities are guaranteed rights under the highest international standards.

RELIGION

Serbia and Montenegro is a multi-confessional state union. Orthodox Christians are the most numerous. There are also other religious communities - the Islamic, the Roman Catholic, the Protestant, the Jewish community and others.

ETHNIC STRUCTURE

Serbia and Montenegro is a state, with 33.7% of its population belonging to one of the sixteen minority groups included in 1991 census.

Based on the 2002 census, the ethnic composition of the Republic of Serbia (without Kosovo) is following: Serbs (82,9%), Hungarians (3.9%), Rroma (1.4%), Croats (0.9%), Slovaks (0.8%), Romanians, Bulgarians, Turks and others. 1.1% of the people declared themselves Yugoslavs, and 1.4% did not declare their ethnic belonging.

Central Serbia is inhabited by Serbs (89.5% of population) except Sandzak where around 300 000 Bosnians live, and two municipalities with members of the Albanian and Bulgarian national minorities making the majority population.

Vojvodina, covering just 20% of the total population of Serbia, is markedly multiethnic community with a total of 26 nations and national or ethnic minorities living in it. According to the 2002 census there was: 65.05% of Serbs, 14.3% -Hungarians, Croats (2.8%), Slovaks (2.8%), Montenegrins (1.75%), Romanians (1.5%), Rroma (1.4%), Ruthenians, Macedonians and other smaller ethnic groups. In 2002 2.45% declared themselves as Yugoslavs, and 2.7% refused to declare their ethnicity.

¹ Situation on 04.11 2003

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LANGUAGE

The Serbian language of the Ekavian and Iekavian dialect is in official use in Serbia and Montenegro. The official script in Serbia is the Cyrillic script and the Latin script is used as well whereas both scripts are used on an equal footing in Montenegro. In the areas of Serbia and Montenegro inhabited by national minorities, their languages and scripts are in official use as well.

Serbian is unique in the way that it uses two alphabets: the Latin and the Cyrillic (Slavic) one. The Serb language is spelt phonetically purposely, so that whatever alphabet you use, it's easy to spell and pronounce the words. Serbs learn both alphabets at school, and have no difficulty using either. Serb Cyrillic differs from Russian and Bulgarian Cyrillic slightly, as new symbols were invented for the 'j', 'dz', 'dzj' and 'ch' sounds. In practice, you'll see most texts are written using the Latin alphabet, but note able exceptions are street names and information at the train and bus stations and in the post office (where Cyrillic Serb and French [sic] is used). It really pays to memorize Cyrillic before arriving to make getting around and deciphering signs easier. It's pretty easy to learn the capital letter versions (these are most used in practice, as the under case versions can be very different) and once you get the hang of it a whole new world opens up.

POLITICAL SYSTEM

The State Union of Serbia and Montenegro was proclaimed on 4 February 2003 is based on the equality of the two member states, the state of Serbia and the state of Montenegro.

The state union's highest legal act is the Constitutional Charter.

Under the Constitutional Charter, the Assembly of Serbia and Montenegro exercises legislative power. The Assembly is mono-cameral and is made up of 126 MPs, 91 of which are from Serbia and 35 from Montenegro. The MPs of the Serbia and Montenegro Assembly are elected from either member state in accordance with European and democratic standards on the basis of the laws of the member states.

For the first two years after the adoption of the Constitutional Charter, the MPs have been elected indirectly in proportion to their representation in the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia and the Assembly of the Republic of Montenegro. After that initial period, the MPs will be elected at direct elections. Their term of office will be four years. The Assembly of Serbia and Montenegro elects from among its MPs the President and the Vice-President of the Assembly and they may not come from the same member state.

The Assembly was constituted on 3 March 2003.

The President of Serbia and Montenegro is elected by the Serbia and Montenegro Assembly. The President of the Assembly and the President of the State Union may not come from the same member state. The State Union President's term of office is four years. The member states take over the office of President alternately. The current President of Serbia and Montenegro Svetozar Marovic (elected on 7 March 2003) comes from Montenegro and the President of the Assembly Dragoljub Micunovic is from Serbia.

The executive power is vested with the President of Serbia and Montenegro and the Council of Ministers that he chairs and runs.

The Council of Ministers has five Ministries: Foreign Affairs; Defense; International Economic Relations; Internal Economic Relations; and Protection of Human and Minority Rights. The President and two candidates for Ministers come from one and the remaining three candidates for Ministers from the other member state. The President of Serbia and Montenegro proposes candidates to the Assembly for the Council of Ministers, the Assembly approves the membership of the Council on the whole. The Ministers have a four-year term of office. The President of Serbia and Montenegro and the Council of Ministers are responsible for their work to the Assembly of Serbia and Montenegro.

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The Council of Ministers was formed on 17 March 2003.

The seat of the Assembly and the Council of Ministers is in Belgrade.

The judicial power is vested with the Court of Serbia and Montenegro. Its decisions are final and binding. The Court is authorized to invalidate laws, other regulations of the institutions of Serbia and Montenegro that are contrary to the Constitutional Charter and the laws of Serbia and Montenegro. The judges from both member states have equal representation on the Court. The judges are appointed by the Assembly of SCG at the proposal of the Council of Ministers for a six-year term of office.

The seat of the Court is in Podgorica.

In addition to the joint Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the President and the Court, every member state has its own Parliament, President and Government².

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Primary school is free and compulsory for 9 years. Secondary school students can either choose a three-year technical course or head on to gymnasium for further studies preparation. Although education through university level is free students must pay if their not "on the budget of the state".

Big university centers are in: Belgrade, Nis, Novi Sad, Podgorica, Pristina but also with departments in a few others cities like Kragujevac, Subotica (also see:

<http://www.mps.sr.gov.yu/code/navigate.php?Id=189> – Educational reform in Serbia)

SHORT HISTORY

Key dates in history of Serbia and Montenegro in last 80 years

1918

24. November - The Central Committee of the People's Council of the SCS proclaimed the unification of the state of Slovenes, Croats and the Serbs living in the area of the former Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Kingdom of Serbia and Montenegro into a single state of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

1. December - A delegation of the People's Council of SCS and Regent Aleksandar Karadjordjevic proclaimed the common state in Belgrade - the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.

1929

3. October - The Law on the name and division of the Kingdom into administrative regions changed the name of the state into the Kingdom of Yugoslavia and the country was divided into nine sub-regions (Banovina).

1943. - 1945.

29. November 1943. - At the Second Session of the Anti-fascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia (AVNOJ), Yugoslavia was designed as a federation of five nations (Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Macedonians and Montenegrins) and six federal units (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina).

10 August 1945. - At the Third Session of AVNOJ in Belgrade Yugoslavia was given the name Democratic Federal Yugoslavia (DFJ).

² official web page of Serbia and Montenegro www.gov.yu

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29. November 1945. - The Constituent Assembly proclaimed the Republic changing the state's name into the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia (FNRJ).

1963.

7. April 1963. - The new Federal Constitution was adopted changing the state's name into the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SFRJ).

1991.

25. June - The Parliament (Sabor) of the Republic of Croatia adopted unanimously the Declaration proclaiming an independent and sovereign Republic of Croatia and initiated the procedure of disassociation from Yugoslavia. The Assembly of Slovenia adopted a decision on disassociation from the SFRY and a declaration of independence.

15. October - The Assembly of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in the absence of the MPs of Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) adopted a Memorandum on a sovereign Bosnia and Herzegovina.

21. November - The Parliament of Macedonia formally promulgated the Macedonian Constitution defining Macedonia as a sovereign and independent state.

1992.

27. April - The Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly adopted the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) as the joint state of Serbia and Montenegro.

2002.

14. March - The officials of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Montenegro signed in Belgrade, in the presence of the High Representative of the European Union, the Proceeding Points for the Restructuring of Relations between Serbia and Montenegro stipulating that "Serbia and Montenegro" was to be the name of the FRY in the future.

2003.

4. February - The State Union of Serbia and Montenegro, based on the equality of its two member states - the state of Serbia and the state of Montenegro - was formed

YOUNG PEOPLE IN SERBIA

BASIC INFORMATION

The average adolescent can be described as an optimistic youngster set in a gloomy surrounding. Young people regard the economic situation in their families as far as good: one quarter of Serbia and Montenegro families do not have a vehicle, one third live in an extended family (three generations lives together) and one third have never gone on holidays with their family. The average adolescent pocket money amounts to 1 EURO per week. Up to 70% secondary school students do not have access to a computer. Despite every day difficulties average adolescent is healthy and feels happy most of the time. Quiet often he/she is nervous, sometimes depressed, however, the predominant feeling is one of the self-confidence and energy.

Population (Federal Statistic Office, 2001):	8 372 000
	7 721 000 Serbia
	651 000 Montenegro
Youth (15-24)	1 115 392
	1 042 070 Serbia
	103 322 Montenegro
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)	201 600 Serbia

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29 659 Montenegro

Internally Displaced Youth
739 female)

30 824 (15 085 male; 15

Refugee pop.

386 400 Serbia
14 293 Montenegro

The young people in Serbia and Montenegro are born in the country that no longer exists. There is no more graphic symbol of how much change they have experienced in their relatively short lives.

During the 1980s the wind of change roared across Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and the closed ranks of the communistic countries of the region were blown wide open as forces for political, economic and social change prevailed. By 1990s, the states that had reigned in the region since the end of the WWII was shattered: the Berlin wall had fallen, the Soviet Union was braking apart and the Yugoslav federation was fast unraveling.

Slovenia, Croatia and the FYROM declared independence in 1991, followed by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992. The remaining republics formed the "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia". These changes in the political map were accompanied by the dramatic migration of some 700 000 refugees and internal displaced persons into Serbia and Montenegro. Young people were effectively cut from many relatives and friends still living in the former Yugoslav republics.

UN sanctions were imposed on FRY in 1992. This international boycott isolated the country even more and young people had little communication with the outside world, even in terms of magazines and foreign visitors. At home, many young people watched their fathers, uncles, older brothers and cousins go off to the wars. Up to 400 000 people, including many young people simply left the country during the 1990s. The collapse of the former Yugoslav federation (Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia - SFRY) in 1991 and ensuing instability had a profound impact on the economy. Under communism the former Yugoslav federation had become interdependent and industrial input was concentrated in a few giant plants, so with the inter-republic links severed economic output in FRY dropped by half (in 2000 per capita income was 990 USD which is 43% lower than in 1990). After the imposition of sanctions, FRY experienced a year of hyperinflation in 1993 that culminated in the huge devaluation of the current unit

The sanctions were partially lifted in December 1995, but the economy failed to rebound. In 1997, Montenegro's President, Milo Djukanovic, started to distance the republic from the Milosevic regime in Serbia. In so doing, Montenegro was able to gain more favor with western states, and avoid some (but by no means all) of the troubles faced during the Kosovo War in 1999. While there has been much rhetoric about wide reaching reforms in Montenegro, and becoming a true European democracy, little has actually been done by those in power to solve the pressing problems that face ordinary people every day, such as unemployment, high prices and lack of a vibrant civil society. Such problems are often masked by an overemphasis in the public sphere on the question of independence.

In 2000, the unemployment rate was as much as 32% in the total population and 64% among the young people. As estimated 250 000 factory workers and 1 000 000 public servants were on compulsory layoff that was expected to become permanent. The deep economic troubles have sharply reduced public revenues as well as household income, and poverty has increased substantially across the country in the past decade. In 1999, the average FRY household had to spend up to 45% of the total family income only on food. The poverty rate was a staggering 31% in 2000; roughly 3 million people living on 4 EURO or less per day. This difficult economic situation makes young people much more dependent on their families. The huge drop in public revenues and the "overcrowding" caused by the largest refugee and IDP population in Europe have placed even more stress on individual households, public institutions and the social welfare system. This double-whammy of fewer resources and greater demands has impaired many facilities and services, including health care, education and institutions for the disabled, orphans and young offenders.

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Youth in Serbia and Montenegro are also faced with a social crisis of sorts, or at the very least a changing social landscape. They can find it hard to relate to parents who grew up in a profoundly different world, one that was highly controlled but stable. Ethnic tensions have resurfaced and boiled over and young people can still be taught in school to hate their neighbors. Patriarchal traditions have also resurfaced in some parts of the country, especially rural areas and the south, and that has affected the girls and young women especially.

On top of economic crisis and social dislocation, many young people went through the NATO bombing of 1999, and the short and long-term impact of this traumatic event on the health and well being of young people have yet to be played out.

Fed up with war, hardship and a repressive regime that attempted to manipulate presidential balloting in October of 2000, massive nationwide demonstrations and strikes, with many youth among the participants; culminated with the ousting of leader Slobodan Milosevic from power. This was a historical event that closed the opening chapter on the declaration of transition in the CEE/CIS/Baltic region just as clearly as the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 had announced it. After a decade of isolation and conflict FRY has turned the corner toward democracy and a market economy.

In 2003 another process began. Two member countries of FRY, Serbia and Montenegro, after 6 years of ignorance signed a mutual agreement of "cooperation" within the new formed state union - Serbia and Montenegro.

It is difficult to argue that the young people of Serbia and Montenegro are too young to have a full say in the transition of their nation. Youth in this country have experienced a lot for their years: political revolutions, war, economic shock, not to mention the large life events that can arise in any young person's life: unplanned pregnancy, trouble with alcohol or drug abuse, violence or abuse at home or on the streets, conflict with the law. Youth is also some of the best Serbia and Montenegro athletes, most compelling artists, great entertainers, business people, smart thinkers and innovators.

The challenge for all sectors of Serbia and Montenegro society is to move quickly to demonstrate that they are building a country in which its own young people choose to stay. Certainly, involving the participation of youth will go a long way to creating that new reality. Despite the troubles in their country, the youth of Serbia and Montenegro are proud who they are, optimistic about the future.

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth participation can be defined as taking part in influencing processes, decision and activities particularly those that affect young people. Meaningful participation requires a safe and supportive environment that enables young people to make choices based upon full information and that increases their connections to their social surroundings. It means having an active role in family matters, school, health services, community life and government.

Almost half of young people (48%) in Serbia and Montenegro belong to an organized group - the second highest participation rate in Europe, after Baltic States. Boys are more likely to belong than girls (53% compared to 43%). Young people spread themselves around a number of different types of groups: 7% musical groups or band; 5% - sport club; 4% - religious group; 3% - scouts, political associations, dance group; 2% - art club; 1% volunteer group. Almost a quarter didn't specify which kind of group they had joined.

Only four organizations function at the national level and only two (Scout association and Red Cross) have a complete organizational structure at all levels.

The strong affinity of young people for joining clubs is an inheritance of the communistic past when mass participation by children and youth in extracurricular groups was common as these organizations had a strong presence in schools and participation was free. All groups,

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even ones with international associations like the Scout association and the Youth hostel Association, had to belong to the state controlled Union of Socialist Youth. The groups were top-down organizations, highly centralized and aimed moulding youth. In their fight from communism, many transition countries dismantled this infrastructure in their hurry to get rid of the past. As it turns out, it has been difficult to establish new youth organizations from scratch and to develop networks and associations among various groups.

All private organizations, endowments, legacies and funds that existed before 1945 were nationalized after WWII and their property was confiscated. Free association of citizens, out of government control, was not permitted. In that period, with the government support, umbrella organization Union of Socialist Youth created network of local and regional branches. Involvement in youth organizations became a part of development and promotion of young socialists for the Party.

At the beginning of the nineties, the multi party system was introduced in Serbia, and free associative life was allowed. Following the break-up of the Communist League, Union of Socialist Youth was dismantled. Instead, so-called youth councils appeared at local, regional and republic levels, as youth NGO umbrella organizations. Although those youth councils were officially non-governmental organizations, they were closely controlled by the government.

After the fall of Milosevic, youth and other non-governmental organizations in Serbia for the first time got the opportunity to develop without government interference. Some organizations, like Student Union of Serbia (Studentska Unija Srbije - SUS), have developed a nation-wide networks and gained significant influence. I.e. SUS was involved in drafting of new legislation on university education, it was appointed to overlook the distribution of dormitory accommodation, which helped ending the corruption in that process. In April, Serbian government sponsored the three-day conference on educational reform, organized by SUS.

Although the government's treatment of the NGO's has improved since 2000, development of the legislative framework for the local and international NGO's has been very slow. With an excuse that there are more important priorities, the government still hasn't done anything to change current law on non-governmental organizations in accordance to the European standards.

[Youth Council of Serbia \(Omladinski savet Srbije\)](#)

History

The Youth Council of Serbia (Omladinski savet Srbije - OSS) was established in 1990. The membership of OSS consisted of 16 youth organizations with branches all over the country, all of which were previously members of the dismantled Union of Socialist Youth. Among the largest member organizations were the Scout Association of Serbia, Young Researchers of Serbia, Jeunesses Musicales of Serbia, Youth Hostel Association and the Student Alliance. No political parties were members of the youth council.

During the nineties, OSS had close ties with the government. The president of OSS was at the same time Deputy Minister for Youth and Sport in Serbia, a prominent member of Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) and a supporter of Slobodan Milosevic. Other persons in the leadership of the youth council were also connected to SPS.

Youth NGOs that were members of this umbrella organization, however, did not see their membership as a signal of support to the Milosevic's regime. These organizations were non-political, and they needed the support from the government in order to continue their work. Many young people that were members of these organizations were also in opposition to the regime.

Although the statute of OSS was relatively democratic, law in fact regulated the membership of OSS, making it impossible for new organizations to enter. During the nineties several OSS

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organizations were reduced to "ghost organizations" without members, but they still kept their membership inside the youth council.

OSS inherited the property which previously belonged to the dismantled Union of Socialist Youth. It owned an office building, a hotel and a travel agency in Belgrade. However, the hotel and the travel agency have slipped out of the hands of OSS, and organizations and agencies, which were given the office space by the Milosevic regime, occupy half of the office building. Current OSS leadership is still struggling to retain the property.

Today

Following the collapse of the Milosevic regime, several party youths of the Democratic Opposition of Serbia - DOS, decided to take over the OSS from its previous leadership. Along with "old" members, they formed a "transitional board" with the idea to make OSS a European-like youth council, which will serve as an umbrella youth organization.

Unable to deal with the inherited problems and with no clear vision on the financial future of the organization, party youths have abandoned OSS, shortly after. Finally in September 2001, the OSS general assembly elected new leadership, from the old member-organizations.

The biggest problem the OSS is currently facing is lack of funding. Ministry of education established a department for youth issues, but the problems remained. Serbian government still doesn't have a clear youth policy. It has different parts of the youth population included in the government projects, but the general youth strategy is missing.

The OSS spent most of the previous year struggling with the inherited problems and debts. It also inherited six mostly inefficient employees, who cannot be dismissed due to legal procedure. Beside the monthly expenses, it inherited debt of around one million dinars (approx. 17.000 EUR).

Despite the hard financial situation, OSS carried out several projects since September 2001. It produced two theatre plays, within the wider campaign against drug abuse. It also organized the TV campaign called "What's your story?" where several young and successful people from different professions told the viewers their life stories. On June 1, 2002 OSS organized Youth Day presentation, exhibiting the work of all 11 member organizations and the work of Student's Union of Serbia and Otpor movement.

The main goal OSS leadership has set out is to create a strong youth umbrella organization that will serve the needs of its members and represent it to the decision-makers. Membership should be expanded to all kind of youth organizations, including independent students' organizations and party youth. In the situation where government doesn't have a clear youth policy, a need of a strong youth council is obvious. Only strong and organized action could help different youth needs and views attract wider attention.

Serbia and Montenegro has a wide range of "new" youth organizations organized as NGO's, some 5000 in the country. The number of NGO's is hard to determine both due to the growing numbers and to difficulties in classifying which should be defined as "youth organizations". There are two basic types of youth related NGO's - those organized by young people around a theme and those which have a youth focus but are not limited to young people.

Student Unions today have become very important in the university life, advocating not only for a voice in student affairs but in curriculum reform and reform of the law governing universities.

There is an understandable urge to decentralize organizational structures and also a need for cooperation and collaboration among youth organizations in SCG in order to maximize the participation of young people at all levels of society, and internationally.

Also see:

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<http://www.sus.org.yu> (Serbian only) – Student Union of Serbia (Serbian version only)

<http://www.mis.org.yu> – Young researchers of Serbia

[Development of the National Youth Strategy and Policy in the Republic of Serbia \(January 2002 June 2003\)](#)

Youth Section main goals:

- o Defining the national youth strategy and policy (long-term, based on reliable data, as well as on the cooperation with youth organizations and other ministries)
- o Establishing cooperation with youth and expert organizations (on the local, national and international level)
- o Support for youth projects in the Republic of Serbia
- o Preparatory phase expanding responsibilities with the redefinition of the Federation, including international cooperation

[National Youth Research Youth in Serbia 2002](#)

The research itself was conducted in cooperation with the PRONI Institute for Social Education from Sweden, supported through the Stability Pact for SEE (also see: <http://www.stabilitypact.org>) and by the Ministry of Education and Sports of the Republic of Serbia (also see: <http://www.mps.sr.gov.yu>), and realized in cooperation with the Center for Policy Studies, Belgrade.

This research, together with analysis of already existed data will serve as the start point for the development of national youth strategy in our country.

Development of the National Youth Strategy and Policy

On the occasion of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the Ministers responsible for Youth Issues, held in Thessalonica in November 2002, the official document was presented with the planned activities in the process of the development of the national youth strategy and policy. Preparatory steps have been made communication with the respective ministries, contacts with more than 200 non governmental organizations, as well as pre-selection of 50 youth organizations (including review of their activities and interviews) from which 25 will be selected to take active part in the whole process. Those contacts resulted in the number of activities held in 2002 in order to make possible wide involvement of existing youth structures from the beginning of the process (activities are listed). By the end of 2003 the National Steering Committee will have its first meeting and the Stakeholder group will start its activities.³

Priorities

A group of priorities was determined as the most appropriate to start with:

- Increasing the level of participation in the decision making processes on all levels
- Adequate representation of youth in all aspects of the public life
- Satisfactory legal measures concerning youth issues
- Relevant provisions and advice for youth
- Regional networking and intercultural learning
- Fight against social exclusion
- Youth mobility
- Volunteerism
- Information policy and local networking
- Primary prevention measures

³ First meeting of the representatives of the governmental bodies interested in youth policy has been conducted during the December 2003 blabla

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Based on these priorities the Youth Section started its agenda and modifies it as the new data are collected, as well as on the information from the youth organizations.

Realized activities

1. Youth Summer Camps 2002 on the initiative of the PM Mr. Djindjic, 12000 young people (14-16 yrs of age) were involved in the program of Summer Camps, developed by the Youth Section team. Short-term goal of this project was to animate young people to become active citizens and the long-term was primary prevention of drug abuse. The basic program consisted of 3 parts:

- Educational program (life skills, such are nonviolent communication and conflict resolution, team work, activism in the local community)
- Creative program (to support creative processes through diverse artistic and other activities)
- Sport program (basketball, swimming, football, ...)

This project was the first and very fruitful cooperation the Youth Section had with all relevant ministries, since the Youth Section was responsible for coordination of the whole project, as well as evaluation of the project. In 2003 Summer Camps could not be realized due to the lack of funds available to the Ministry of Education and Sports, despite the fact that MoES had requests from more than 45000 high school students to take part in summer camps organized by the MoES. We hope that the year 2004 will be opportunity to repeat success we had with Summer Camps 2002.

2. Support for Youth Organizations and Projects Support was in 2002 mainly in the program sense, and in 2003 Youth Section supported projects on which MoES had a partner role.

-Youth Information and Media Center in Belgrade was established in 2002 in cooperation with Belgrade Youth Council and the City of Belgrade. The main aim of this center is distribution of information to and from young people, education and development of voluntary youth work. The continual support is foreseen, as well as opening of similar centers in Serbia.

-BUNT Belgrade in the New Wave Project aiming on development of local youth strategy in Belgrade, coordinated by the Belgrade Youth Council and embraced by 75 youth organizations based in Belgrade (also see: <http://www.beogradunovomtalasu.org> - Youth Council of Belgrade – Initiative Belgrade in new wave (Serbian version only))

.-Youth empowerment measures through support for diverse seminars, trainings and conferences, partnership in regional and international youth projects (youthNET (also see: <http://www.iz.or.at/youthnet>), Youth Against Violence (also see: www.yav.info), promotion of the YOUTH program of European Commission, and realization of the Assistance Program of the Council of Europe. Approx. 50 activities of this type were supported and promoted, with the aim of creating atmosphere and open space for the debate on national youth strategy.

- Youth Parliaments Project whose aim is reform of pupils associations, as precognition for youth participation in decision-making processes in school environment. Youth section supported, in cooperation with the Nis local government establishment of pupils' parliaments in all primary and high schools in Nis, and the establishment of City Children and Youth Parliament (also see: <http://www.nis.org.yu/index-e.html>). In 2003 the article is added in the law on primary and secondary education on the initiative of the Youth Section to allow and define roles and responsibilities of Youth Parliaments in secondary education. In 2004 Youth Section will further support and promote participation of young people in school surroundings.

- In 2004 youth organizations and their activities will be supported with 15 million dinars for their activities from the budget of the Ministry of Education and Sports through an open tender.

3. International Activities and fruitful cooperation is established with the international community, resulting with organization and/or representation on diverse international conferences, training and seminars. MoES Youth Section organized international conference "Basics for young peoples' cooperation between EU and SEE countries", with the support of

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European Commission. Representatives from respective ministries from SEE countries, international organizations and local and national youth organizations were present at this conference. Representatives of the Youth Section took part on numerous conferences organized by the WB, Council of Europe, European Commission, UN and foreign governments in order to promote youth issues in the Republic of Serbia as well as in Montenegro (since Montenegro has no official body responsible for youth issues), and to foster closer cooperation between youth organizations from Serbia and Montenegro and other countries. For instance, during July 2003, 20 young people took part in international youth summer camp in Greece supported by the Greek Parliament.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

VISA REQUIREMENTS (also see: <http://www.mfa.gov.yu/index.html> –Ministry of the foreign affairs of Serbia and Montenegro)

At its session on 29 May 2003, the Council of Ministers of Serbia and Montenegro brought the Decision on the Abolishment of the Visas for the Entry and Stay in the Serbia and Montenegro which reads:

1. The visas for the entry and stay in Serbia and Montenegro up to 90 days shall be abolished for all types of travel documents for citizens of the following countries: the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Great Britain, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Vatican, Andorra, San Marino, Israel, Cyprus, Malta, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Croatia, the United States of America, Canada, Singapore, the Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand..
2. The citizens of Albania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine may enter and stay in the Republic of Montenegro for tourist visits in the territory of Montenegro individually and in organized groups on the basis of a travel document without a visa.
3. The citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia may enter and stay in the Republic of Montenegro for tourist visits in the territory of the Republic of Montenegro with a travel document or a personal ID card.
4. Foreign nationals from paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Decision shall be issued tourist passes at the border crossings in the Republic of Montenegro with the period of validity of up to 30 days.

Information for foreign nationals visiting Serbia and Montenegro who are required to obtain visas (also see: http://www.mfa.gov.yu/Embassies/missions_e.html – Foreign Embassies in Serbia and Montenegro)

1. Valid Passport,
2. Letter of invitation (verified by the competent Serbia and Montenegro authority) or an invitation by a company for a business visit or a receipt or authorized tourist company certifying that the travel arrangement has been paid for (letter of credit or other payment receipt);
3. Return ticket;
4. Proof of sufficient funds in hard currency and
5. Certificate that a health fund shall cover the medical costs in Serbia and Montenegro, if any.

Note: Transit visa applicants are required to obtain the visa for the country they will enter after the transit through Serbia and Montenegro.

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DISTANCES IN SCG

Belgrade																				
332	Bijelo Polje																			
136	468	Kikinda																		
317	143	453	Kosovska Mitrovica																	
576	224	712	357	Kotor																
139	263	275	208	472	Kragujevac															
527	175	663	308	157	423	Niksic														
237	296	373	163	520	154	471	Nis													
75	386	111	392	651	214	602	312	Novi Sad												
372	107	508	68	296	263	247	204	447	Pec											
315	81	451	224	283	250	150	377	390	188	Pljevlja										
473	121	609	254	103	369	54	417	548	193	180	Podgorica									
81	363	217	308	572	100	523	198	156	363	350	469	Pozarevac								
355	171	491	38	395	246	346	125	430	79	252	292	321	Pristina							
173	484	139	490	735	312	700	410	98	691	488	646	254	528	Sombor						
178	489	104	495	754	317	705	415	103	550	493	651	259	533	58	Subotica					
90	317	192	336	541	136	492	327	81	424	300	438	171	374	179	184	Sabac				
181	151	317	246	375	116	326	248	247	258	134	272	208	284	345	350	166	Uzice			
82	414	156	399	658	221	609	319	147	454	397	555	163	437	245	228	172	263	Vrsac		
240	430	376	259	654	157	605	96	315	300	413	551	162	221	413	418	293	279	322	Zajecar	
76	408	60	393	652	215	603	313	51	448	391	549	157	431	149	132	132	257	96	316	Zrenjanin

(distances are in kilometers; 1 kilometer = 0.621 mile)

VISA ATM terminals in Serbia and Montenegro (also see:

http://www.hotels.co.yu/yugoslavia/useful.cfm?theme=VISA_ATM_terminals&lng=1

)

Belgrade:

- Kralja Petra 14
- Beogradska 39
- Glavna 46, Zemun

- Andre Nikolica 2a
- Partizanske avijacije b.b.
- Kirovljeva 37, Banovo Brdo
- 27. mart 72

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- Makedonska 30
 - Hotel "Inter Continental"
 - Hotel "Hyatt"
- Novi Sad:
- Trifkovic trg 5
- Nis:
- Vozda Karadjordja b.b.
- Subotica:
- Trg slobode 1
- Cacak:
- Kuzeljeva 19
- Uzice:
- Dimitrija Tucovica 56

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SPELLING

Serbians and Montenegrins have the habit of writing words phonetically - useful if you use two alphabets, very funny when spelling foreign words and names. You may already have noticed weird street names such as Dzordza Vasingtona (George Washington), but have a laugh at Hari Poter, Pol Harison (Paul Harrison) or words like pab (pub) or anderground (the club).

Incidentally, it's interesting to notice that quite a few German words have made their way into Serbian, for example *Generalstab* for the Ministry of Defence and *shalter* (German Schalter) for counter.

BLACK MARKET

International copyright laws are not respected, resulting in a very attractive range of readily available cheap, pirated goods. Most obvious are the absurdly cheap copied CDs (2 Euro), videos, DVDs and DVIXs (films you can play on your PC). A new local specialty are the MP3 collections, which are the complete works of artists like Pink Floyd or the Rolling Stones neatly compressed onto one 2EURO CD. All these are for sale in respectable shops and "kiosks", some of which have a very good selection. Otherwise, try your luck at finding nifty copies of sneakers (Reobok, Reebak, etc.), good quality clothes and accessories (Armani suits, trendy handbags) and more. Be aware that importing these products into your home country is officially illegal⁴.

CUSTOMS

You are allowed to bring the following into Serbia and Montenegro without facing taxes: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars or 250 grammes of tobacco; 1 litre of wine and 1 litre of spirits; 1/4 litre of Eau de Cologne and a 'reasonable' quantity of perfume; 2 photocameras; 1 movie camera; 1 pair of binoculars; 1 pocket electronic calculator; camping equipment and 1 bicycle. You would be stupid to bring in cigarettes or booze, as it's all much cheaper in Yugoslavia. Foreigners can bring along as much Health as they want, but are advised to declare large sums on entry, so that you will not face problems when taking it out again

HEALTH

Healthcare in Serbia and Montenegro is not bad, but if anything serious happens you'll want to go home. Although you should get a comprehensive health insurance to cover your stay in Serbia and Montenegro, it's good to know that bilateral health insurance agreements have been concluded with many European countries (Germany, UK, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland), so that initial costs of healthcare will be taken care of. Other agreements (like with Austria, Croatia) are pending⁵.

HUMOR

The Pythonesque⁶ sense of dark humor widely practiced by people of Serbia and Montenegro is a joy to discover. However horrid the news, the people from Serbia and Montenegro have always

⁴ It is also illegal in Serbia and Montenegro

⁵ Data valid in 2001

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found some kind of way to smile about it, sometimes very much to the shock of more politically correct visitors from the west.

MONEY

Serbia and Montenegro is still a cash-only society, although changes are afoot. You'll see VISA and Diners stickers everywhere but these are only valid for *locally issued* credit cards. The only chance you have of getting cash out of western plastic, is by using your VISA card at the ATMs

Even if you have a VISA card, always bring along enough cash (EUROs are the preferred foreign currency) or Travellers' Cheques that can be exchanged in banks - the western ones like Societe Generale, HVB and Raffeisen are more likely to smile, speak English and get on with it. Western Union (for fast and pricey cash transfers) is represented by Societe Generale and the post offices.

You can change money at any of hundreds of *menjacnica* (exchange offices) in Serbia and Montenegro. Gone are the days of fluctuating rates and black market rates - all exchange bureaux (including those in the airport, shops, hotels, etc.) have to use almost the same rate, so you can change anywhere without fear of being overcharged. You can recognize official exchange offices by the new tilted square. Spend all your Hungarian forints, Romanian lei or Bulgarian leva before you arrive here - nobody is likely to change them⁷.

(also see: <http://www.nbs.yu/english/links/index.htm> – List of banks in Serbia in Montenegro)

SAFETY

You might think that people of Serbia and Montenegro would bear a noticeable grudge against westerners after the propaganda wars and bombings of the 1990s, but surprisingly this is not the case. Indeed, what most visitors remember most about a visit to Serbia and Montenegro is the hospitality and openness of the locals. If you are asked about your opinions on the actions of NATO or the present situation in the former Yugoslav republics, it may be best to keep an open mind, whatever your opinion, and wait till “the bottle of slivovitz pops open to declare eternal friendship”. All fears of 'being attacked' or harassed just because you are a foreigner are completely unfounded - to the contrary, you will be one of the few foreigners coming this way, and therefore a guest who has to be treated well and stuffed with food and booze. Of course you should avoid walking through dark alleys at night and flashing cameras, fat wallets and the like. You have to be warned that it wouldn't be safe to go to Kosovo, especially because there is lot of land mines left, and security is on the lowest level

TOILETS

There are public toilets, but if this advice worth something don't do it!!

ACCOMODATION

Most hotels are expensive for foreigners. Now it is against the law in Serbia if the hotel tries to charge you double if you are foreigner (feel free to call inspection). Prices are the same for all.

Beside that, don't try to sleep in hotels in the downtown if you have another solution(center of the city) because they are expensive.

Prices for full board may be vary from 35-100 EURO.

Prices in spas (banje) are little cheaper.

⁶ Something like Monthly Pythons Flying circus

⁷ Or at least you will have problems to find some change office to exchange them.

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If you don't know anyone in Serbia and Montenegro who might check the hotel price do the next thing: go the web page, find the telephone number (not e-mail!!) and call the hotel. (Also see: <http://www.hotels.co.yu> Hotels in Serbia and Montenegro)
http://www.hostels.org.yu/start_e.htm – Web page of the Serbia and Montenegro hostels;

TRANSPORT

Buses travel from Budapest, Lyon, Munich, Paris, Thessaloniki and Zurich to Belgrade, usually via Hungary, and from Slovenia and Macedonia and Croatia via Sid, the Serbia and Montenegro/Croatian border crossing. Trains from Western Europe go via Budapest to Novi Sad, or you can get a train from Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece or Turkey to Belgrade.
<http://www.lasta.co.yu/Eng/index.php> – Check for destination and ticket price

Ferries run between Bari in Italy and Bar in Montenegro

Flights go between Belgrade and Montenegro (Tivat and Podgorica) twice a day.

Trains run between Subotica, Novi Sad, Belgrade, Nis, Pristina and Skopje, and there's a connection between Belgrade and Bar. If you want to travel along the Montenegrin coast, or visit Kosovo or Durmitor, you'll have to catch a bus. www.yurail.co.yu – Serbia and Montenegro rails – Serbian version only

Airplanes flights in and from almost every continent. (also see: <http://www.jat.co.yu> – Serbia and Montenegro national airway company;
http://www.hotels.co.yu/yugoslavia/useful.cfm?theme=airlines&sub_th=0&lng=1 – List of foreign airway companies in Serbia and Montenegro;
<http://www.krstarica.com/lat/servis/index.php?servis=avioni> – flights from/in Belgrade airport – Serbian page only)

<http://www.yuta.co.yu/En/default.asp> - Association of Serbian and Montenegrin travel agencies)

PLACES TO VISIT

Belgrade

Top sights in the city center include Terazije Street, the Serbia and Montenegro Parliament, Republika Square, the St. Sava and St. Alexander Nevsky churches and Studentski Square. Bombed buildings are everywhere, and will probably remain there as painful memorials for years to come.

You can wander around the Kalemegdan citadel, first built in the 11th century and later used by the Turks, for hours or even days. There's lots of old gates, walls and towers, a big park, a view over Belgrade and the Danube and Sava rivers, the military museum and some other smaller museums, various statues, etc.

The National Museum at Republika square has a large collection of Serbian (and one room with foreign) art from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

Across the river Sava are Novi Beograd (New Belgrade) and Zemun. Novi Beograd consists of blocks of apartment buildings built by the communists. From Kalemegdan, you can see as "the new highest building in Belgrade", a curious construction of two towers connected by a passage at the top to form some sort of city gate. Zemun used to be a different town altogether, but now borders Novi Beograd.

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The best place to go for dinner is Skadarliia, a picturesque cobblestone street lined with restaurants and pubs.

There's a tourist information office in an underground passage at the intersection of Terazije and Kneza Mihaila, the pedestrian shopping street that leads to Kalemegdan. Also on Kneza Mihaila are an English bookstore (in the basement of the store on the first corner on the right, coming from Terazije), and numerous stands selling postcards, maps and souvenirs.

also see:

<http://www.beograd.org.yu/english/index.htm> –Official presentation of Belgrade

<http://www.port-bgd.co.yu> - Belgrade port

Novi Sad

Novi Sad's old town is very pleasant to walk around. There's a plethora of churches, many outdoor pubs and lots of archways. The main sight outside the old town is the Petrovaradin citadel across the Danube, which offers a splendid view over Novi Sad and Petrovaradin, the Danube and the surrounding hills. Also nice is Dunav Park.

The Vojvodina Museum has a great overview of life in the area, from prehistoric times to the 19th century. Next door the less complete Vojvodina Museum II illustrates the First and Second World Wars.

There is a tourist information desk at the train/bus station, which can help with finding accommodation.

Novi Sad is a host city of the EXIT FEST (in July) one of the biggest festivals in South East Europe (and maybe one of the biggest in Europe).

Don't miss this event!!

<http://www.gradnovisad.org.yu/english/index.htm> – Official presentation of Novi Sad

<http://www.nsfair.co.yu/eindex.html> Novi Sad fair

<http://www.ns.ac.yu/stara/eng/prezentacija.html> – University of Novi Sad

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One of the most impressive and the most bizarre monuments is Cela Kula (Skull Tower), built by the Turks from the skulls of rebel Serbs in 1806. Cele Kula is now being kept inside a chapel with some explanatory panels about its history. Only about 60 out of 952 skulls remain, but it's still an impressive sight.

Like Novi Sad and Belgrade, Nis has a citadel, but the difference is that this one was completely built by the Turks, giving it a significantly different look – note the Arab inscriptions on the gates. Roman remains were also found here, amongst others a collection of gravestones.

Other sights include Oslobodenja Square, the city's only remaining mosque at Generala Milojka Lesjanina, the People's theatre and the market that's held daily near the citadel and the bus station. Not far from Nis is the spa town Niska Banja.

On the way there the bus passes by the Roman site of Mediana, the place where the great emperor Constantine was born.

www.nis.org.yu – Official presentation of Nis
<http://ni.ac.yu/index2.htm> University of Nis

Budva (also see: www.visit-montenegro.com)

A series of fine beaches punctuates what's left of Serbia and Montenegro coastline, with high coastal mountains forming a magnificent backdrop. Budva is Serbia and Montenegro top beach resort, smack in the middle of the Montenegrin coast, a beautiful spot that doesn't suffer too much from crowds. Budva's Disneyesque old town is almost *too* gorgeous - the town collapsed in a 1979 earthquake, everyone was told to move elsewhere, and the place has been entirely rebuilt as a tourist attraction. There's a museum, three churches and a fortress (stand on the ramparts for a lovely view) around a cutesy town square, all faithful copies of the originals.

Although Budva's main beach is a fairly ordinary bunch of pebbles, head 500m north to Mogren Beach and you'll be in beach-bunny heaven. South-east of Budva you'll find Sveti Stefan. Once a quiet little fishing village on an island, Sveti Stefan was bought out and turned into a very expensive hotel which *looks* like a fishing village. If you want to point and stare at the residents, you'll have to pay - it costs to even set foot on the island.

Cetinje

Once the capital of Montenegro, Cetinje sits on a high plateau between the Bay of Kotor and Skadar Lake. When the rest of Yugoslavia was absorbed by the Ottoman Empire, Montenegro hung on to its independence, primarily because Cetinje was so easy to defend. The most imposing building in the city is the former palace, now the State Museum. Opposite is the former house of Cetinje's prince-bishop, built in the 19th century. The Cetinje Monastery, founded in 1484 and rebuilt in 1785, has a treasury of artefacts, including a collection of liturgical songs printed in 1494.

If you feel like a brisk walk, head for Mt Lovcen, 20km away. The mountain is a national park, and at its summit is the mausoleum of Petar II Petrovic Njegos, adorned with a beautiful sculpture of the ruler. Cetinje, with its winding streets and romantic old buildings, is an atmospheric place to spend a few days, but once again you'll have trouble finding somewhere to stay - it might be worth staying in nearby Podgorica and daytripping it.

Pec

Friendly, untouristed and picturesque, Pec nestles below high mountains in the west of Kosovo. Control of Kosovo - whose population is largely Albanian - was handed from the Ottomans to the Serbs in 1913.

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Pec's oriental bazar bustles around the base of the 15th century Bajrakli Mosque, one of the city's eight working mosques. Just outside town, the Patrijarsija Monastery was a stronghold of Serbian Orthodoxy during the Ottoman regime. Inside the monastery's walls you'll find three 13th century churches, all with high domed roofs and glorious medieval frescoes. South of Pec, the Visoki Decani Monastery also has some beautiful 14th century frescoes, and the walk from the bus stop is through very pleasant woodland.

Djerdap National Park (also see: www.npdjerdap.com)

The Djerdap National Park, Danube on the border with Romania, offers both magnificent natural beauty (the bus ride from Kladovo to Golubac alone would be worth it) and a wealth of archaeological and historical sites, including the remarkable prehistoric settlement of Lepenski Vir and the castle at Golubac.

The Hotel Djerdap at Kladovo, a cozy town in the east of the area, charges app. 50EURO for a single, and the Hotel Lepenski Vir at Donji Milanovac and the Hotel Golubac would be equally expensive.

TIPS AND TRICKS

Modern art has had plenty to feed off in Serbia and Montenegro. The vibrant art scene produces works which use folk motifs, political symbols and provocative text to pull apart and interpret Serbia and Montenegro tumultuous recent history. Surrealist posters bring political messages out of the gallery and onto the streets. Writers, too, have mined the rich vein of tragedy in their country's history - Ivo Andric won a Nobel Prize for his book *Na Drini Cuprija*, about the gap between religions.

Serbia and Montenegro music and dance is built on a strong folk tradition, with brassy tones of *plehmuzika*, Serbia's national brass-band sound. Modern musos such as Goran Bregovic taken folk themes and add street poetry and jazz.

Modern Cyrillic was standardized about 150 years ago, mostly by the 19th century philologist, *Vuk Karadzic*, who reformed the alphabet so that each of its 30 letters corresponds to a unique sound. This quality makes Cyrillic completely phonetic and thus very easy to read and write once one knows the spoken tongue.

Within Serbian there are two major regional dialects, Ekavian in the east and Iekavian in the west, as well as local variations in pronunciation, vocabulary and idiom. Writing reflects these variants: the word "song" is *pesma* in Ekavian and *pjesma* in Iekavian. Serbian vocabulary also includes numerous Turkish words that entered during the centuries of Ottoman rule, German words, and English words like computer and hamburger. Many Serbians and Montenegrins know German or English as a second language, and educated people may also know French. In Kosovo, Albanian is the most common language. The oldest surviving Serbian books date from the 12th century.

Despite the long-standing ethnic tensions between Serbia and Montenegro and their neighbors, Serbians and Montenegrins tend to be tolerant and pragmatic people, warm both to each other and strangers. They also value humor as an important part of all communication. Friends and family of both sexes often kiss each other's cheeks two or three times; a handshake is a more formal greeting. Although most Serbians and Montenegrins speak German, and many speak French or English, learning a few Serbian phrases will open doors and create smiles.

Serbia and Montenegro blur culinary borders, with a cuisine that takes tastes from Turkey, Hungary and Greece. However they spice it, though, the Serbians and Montenegrins love

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their meat: Serbian kebabs, hamburger steaks, vegetables stuffed with meat and mixed grills of pork, liver, sausage and rissoles. Montenegrins, who do a good line in dairy cows, serve their meat with cream and cheese. Even breakfast is meaty - the traditional Balkan *burek* is a greasy layered pie of cheese and meat. Fruit grows everywhere and the Serbians and Montenegrins like to enjoy their harvest year round by fermenting grapes, apples, or stone fruit into a brandy called *rakija*. Montenegrin beer is also a tasty tippie.

With plenty of mountains and a long, cold winter, Serbia and Montenegro thoughts frequently turn to snow. Serbia's largest centre for skiing is Kopaonik, which has 26 runs covering a total of 54km, and a 150 bed hostel. Brezovica, on the north side of the Sar Planina which separates Kosovo from Macedonia, is Kosovo's major resort. In Montenegro, try Zabljak. The ski season lasts from December to March. Serbia and Montenegro also has some top spots for white-water rafting: try the Tara River in Durmitor National Park. Durmitor also has great skiing and hiking possibilities.

TIME

GMT/UTC plus 1 hour

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ELECTRICITY:

220V, 50Hz

WEIGHTS&MEASURES:

Metric

HIGHEST POINT

Djeravica, 2 656 meters

RIVERS:

Danube/Dunav, Sava, Velika Morava, Drina, Tara

Before the Second World War, health conditions and care in Serbia and Montenegro were very poor. The country had few doctors; widespread inadequate nutrition and hygiene contributed to disease. Deaths from tuberculosis, malaria, diphtheria, typhus, syphilis, dysentery and whooping cough were higher than anywhere in Europe.

For centuries, Serbia and Montenegro have found healing and relief at the country's many natural springs, which have been converted to spas and health resorts. Over 200 centers dot the countryside and are its oldest tourist resorts, visited by nobles during the Roman Empire. Mineral springs and mud baths are said to be especially good for the bones and chronic ailments such as arthritis, as well as for specific disorders. Often these centers are designed to be pleasant, restful places, with gardens, hotels and entertainment.

After World War II, the communist government modernized Serbia and Montenegro healthcare system and introduced medical insurance. The country has an expanded clinical and hospital network, as well as private services. The University Clinical Centre in Belgrade is one of the world's busiest health centers. Despite progress, most services are concentrated in urban areas; standards of care in rural areas are much lower.

Employed persons now receive full healthcare coverage, including hospital accommodation, dental care and orthopedic services. Women are eligible for one year of paid maternity leave per

Did you know?

The Bay of Kotor on the Montenegrin coast is the only fjord in southern Europe.

Located in eastern Serbia and Montenegro, the Iron Gates of the Danube is a spectacular gorge through which the river exits into Romania. The canyon's walls soar to 488 meters.

Archaeologists have discovered the remains of the oldest European settlement in the Danube basin of northern Serbia. Showing signs of an advanced culture, the prehistoric site is estimated to have existed between 7,000 and 6,000 BC

Vrnjacka Banja (banja means spa), located in the wooded foothills of Mount Goc, is the most popular resort in Serbia. Its mineral springs provide water that is valued for treating disorders of the stomach, liver, kidney and heart. Even visitors without any health complaints are attracted to the spa's sub-Alpine climate, parks and facilities.

Monica Seles, who was born in Novi Sad, is one of the world's top tennis players. She won the women's singles for the United States Open in 1991 and 1992 and numerous other international competitions

An ancient Serbia and Montenegro dish is pasulj, which consists of beans, cooked with vegetables and sometimes ribs.

The philologist Karadzic introduced a saying about the essence of Serbian: "Write as you speak and read as it is written."

During the Middle Ages, the area of Metohia, located in western Kosovo, became the home of Serbia's greatest monasteries and churches. Metohia comes from the Greek word metohion, meaning monastery estates.

On Slava day, people prepare zito, a boiled sweetened wheat. Each guest at the family feast takes a spoonful of the zito to honour those who have passed away. Zito is also prepared for funerals.

Some handmade carpets in Serbia and Montenegro are considered works of art and preserved in museums. The carpets are called Pirot after a small town in southern Serbia (also see: www.pirot.org.yu)

Each area of Serbia and Montenegro has its own folk costume, worn on feast days and other special events. In the southeast, women wear embroidered blouses, jewelry made of metal beads and shoes made of pigskin.

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child and paid leave to care for their sick children. Some benefits are also available for the handicapped, people with addictions and the destitute.

People of Serbia and Montenegro now enjoy a higher level of health, with life expectancy at 73 years. The most common illnesses now are circulatory diseases and cancer, both related to high levels of environmental pollution and cigarette smoking.

EATING THE SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO WAY

Serbia and Montenegro food is filling, with emphasis on meat, potatoes and dairy products. Cuisine varies regionally, showing the influence of ethnic groups and local crops. In the north, Hungarian dishes like goulash are popular, while the Turks left Serbia and Montenegro with a taste for shish kebabs. Lighter Mediterranean fare, such as seafood dishes, is more common along the Adriatic.

Most people begin work between 6 and 8 a.m., so breakfast is an early though hearty meal. People enjoy a drink such as tea, milk or strong coffee, which is very popular and served Turkish style in small, individual pots. Pastries or bread are served with butter, jam, yoghurt, sour cream and cheese, accompanied by bacon, sausages, salami, scrambled eggs and *kajmak*, which is a cross between sour cream and cottage cheese. Balkan *burek* is a layered breakfast pie made of cheese or meat, while *krompirusa* is a version made with potatoes.

Prebranac (Baked Beans)

Ingredients

500g white, medium-to-large beans

500g onions, chopped

vegetable oil for frying

2 garlic cloves, minced

4 bay leaves

salt, black pepper and cayenne pepper to taste

Preparation

In a large pot, cover the beans in water and bring to a boil. When the water boils, remove the pot from heat and drain. Add fresh water to the beans, and bring to a boil again. When the beans are somewhat tender, but not fully cooked (at least 30 minutes), remove from heat and drain off the water, keeping it aside.

While the beans are cooking, sauté the chopped onions in a tablespoon or two of vegetable oil.

When the onions are translucent and tender, add the garlic, bay leaves, salt and peppers. Mix well for a minute more, then remove from heat.

Spread the onions evenly on the bottom of a deep baking dish. Add the beans on top, then enough reserved water to moisten the mixture so the beans can cook. Bake at 180°C (350°F) until beans are fully cooked, about 30 minutes.

Serbia and Montenegro main meal is lunch, usually eaten with the family after work between 2 and 4 p.m. Homemade soup is a frequent starter, followed by a meat or fish course. Serbians and Montenegrins enjoy grilled meat, which usually features in entrées. Typical dishes are *cevapcici*, which is kebabs of spiced, minced beef; *mesano meso*, a mixed grill of pork cutlet, liver sausage and minced meat patties with onions; and *duvec*, grilled pork cutlets baked with spiced stewed peppers, zucchini, tomatoes and rice.

Other popular main dishes are *sarma*, sauerkraut cabbage rolls stuffed with ground beef and pork, and *musaka*, a layered eggplant and potato dish containing minced meat. Salads are typically simple, consisting of peppers, onions and tomatoes seasoned with oil and vinegar. Desserts may include fresh local fruit or sweet pastries. Supper, a lighter meal eaten later in the evening, often consists of dishes similar to those consumed at breakfast.

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People from Serbia and Montenegro enjoy drinking wine with their meals and have many local varieties to choose from. Other popular alcoholic drinks include many varieties of beer and brandies. Slivovica is mild brandy made from blue plums

A FEW WORDS FOR A SIMPLE CONVERSATION

Serbia and Montenegro	Albanian	English	German	Spanish
Dobro jutro	mirëmëngjes	Good Morning	Guten Morgen	Buenos Dias
Dobar dan	mirëdita	Good Afternoon	Guten Tag	Buenos tardes
Da/Ne	Po/Jo	Yes/No	Ja/Nein	Si/No
Ziveli	gëzuar	Cheers	Prost	Salud
Ne razumem		I don't understand	Ich verstehe nicht	No entiendo
Kafa, Caj	kafe /çaj	Coffee, Tea	Kaffee, Tee	Café, Te
Do vidjenja	mirupafshim	Goodbye	Auf Wiedersehn	Adios
Pivo	birrë	Beer	Bier	Cerveza
Hvala	faleminderit	Thank you	Danke	Gracias
Izvini	më fal	Sorry	Entschuldigung	Perdon

SPIRITUALITY

Under communism, Serbia and Montenegro was officially atheist, and religious practices were not encouraged; numerous Serbians and Montenegrins now do not adhere to any faith. However, the majority of Serbia and Montenegro still practice Eastern Orthodox Christianity. Freedom of religious worship is guaranteed in the country's constitution.

Serbia and Montenegro received Eastern Orthodoxy from the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as Byzantium. Eastern Orthodoxy arose from the Great Schism in 1054, when church authorities in Rome and Constantinople disagreed and the two churches of Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy were created. Though the churches share many similarities, the Orthodox Church argues that it practices the original Christian faith; priests are allowed to marry, and the Virgin Mary is not revered as an icon, as she is in Catholicism.

In 1219, Sava, the son of Serbia's first king, obtained self-governing status for the Serb Orthodox Church and became its first archbishop. Today, St. Sava is revered as a man who provided his people with strong spiritual values and laid the foundation for education. Over the centuries, Serb kings built beautiful monasteries that acted as major educational centres and preservers of Serb culture during Turkish rule.

The second largest faith in Serbia and Montenegro is Islam, which entered the region with the Turks and is today practiced by about two million people, most of them living in the south. Islam is based on the Koran, the teachings of Mohammed, a 6th century prophet who claimed to be the last in a line of prophets that include Jesus, Abraham and Moses. Muslims follow the five pillars of Islam: profession of the faith, which says that Allah is the one God and Mohammed his prophet; daily prayer; taxes for the upkeep of the poor and religious scholars; fasting during the month of Ramadan; and, if possible, the *haji* (pilgrimage) to the Holy City of Mecca once in a lifetime.

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Easter is celebrated with church services and Easter eggs. Children and adults have competitions of tapping their decorated eggs together to see whose is the strongest.

Family saints are honored on Slava, a special family day for thanksgiving that varies according to each family⁸. Every Orthodox family reveres its own patron saint, which they believe protects them. The celebration is a time for church service and feasting. Families prepare special bread that is blessed by the priest along with wine and a wheat dish.

Muslim holidays follow the lunar calendar, and thus occur at different times each year. The most important Muslim celebration is Id Al Fitr, a feast which marks the end of Ramadan, the Muslim month for fasting during daylight hours. People feast, wear new clothes, exchange gifts, and enjoy visits with friends and family.

Ivo Andric – winner of the Nobel price

Ivo Andric was born in the village of Dolac, near Travnik, in 1892. After spending his youth in his native Bosnia, which was at the time part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, he studied philosophy at the Universities of Zagreb, Vienna, and Cracow. His studies were interrupted by the outbreak of the First World War, at the beginning of which he was jailed for his anti-Austrian activities. After receiving a doctorate in letters from the University of Graz in 1923, he entered the Yugoslav diplomatic service. The last diplomatic post he held was that of Yugoslav minister in Berlin. When Germany invaded Yugoslavia in 1941, Andric returned to Belgrade and lived there in seclusion throughout the Second World War. He has continued to reside in the Yugoslav capital.

Andric started his literary career as a poet. In 1914 he was one of the contributors to *Hrvatska mlada lirika* (Young Croatian Lyrics). At the end of the war he published two books of lyrical prose - one of them entitled *Nemiri* (Anxieties), 1919 - which, written in the form of a diary, reflect Andric's experiences of the war and his imprisonment. There followed a long period in which Andric concentrated on the writing of short stories. His first novella, *Put Alije Djerzeleza* (The way of Alija Djerzelez⁹), published in 1920, early manifests a dominant trait of his creative process. Andric takes his material from the life of Bosnia, but through this local material he presents universal human problems. In the period between the two world wars Andric published three books of short stories under the same title, *Pripovetke* (Stories), 1924, 1931, 1936.

During the Second World War, in the leisure imposed on him by the circumstances, Andric wrote his three large works, all of which were published in 1945: *Na Drini cuprija* (The Bridge on the Drina), *Travnicka hronika* (Bosnian Story), and *Gospodjica* (The Woman from Sarajevo).

The first two of these works - both of them chronicles rather than novels in the strict sense - deal, like most of Andric's work, with Bosnia and her history. The author describes the life of this region in which East and West have for centuries clashed with their interests and influences, a region whose population is composed of different nationalities and religions. Andric is at his best when he limits himself to his native Bosnia and her people.

In *Gospodjica* and *Nove pripovetke* (New Stories), 1948, Andric presented present-day people and problems. He dealt with the psychology of the wealthy, with the war and postwar periods, and with the formation of a new society. But in *Prokleta avilija* (Devil's Yard), 1954, Andric returned to his favorite milieu and described the experiences of a Bosnian Franciscan, Fra Peter, who is put in an Istanbul jail, being wrongly accused of plotting against Ottoman rule. In 1960 Andric published another collection of stories, *Lica* (Faces). He has also written several essays, prominent among which is *Zapisi o Goji*, (Notes on Goya), 1961.

Ivo Andric died in 1975.

⁸ At least half of the families in Serbia and Montenegro honoring the Saing Nikola. spiritual holiday on December 19, as a protector of the family

⁹ Title translated by the author

COUNTRY PROFILE - SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

PRICES

Prices are different from region to region in Serbia and Montenegro but there are some averages you have to pay:

Prices in cafes:

Coffee – 0.6-0.9 EURO

Juice – 0.8 – 1.2 EURO

Vodka – 0.7 – 1.8 EURO

Beer – 0.6 – 2 EURO

Prices in pizzeria:

Pizza – 4 – 10 EURO

Spaghetti – 4- 8 EURO

Prices in restaurants:

Average meal – 10 – 20 EURO

SPORT

The definitely most popular sports in Serbia and Montenegro are:

FOOTBALL- the most famous teams: Crvena Zvezda (Belgrade), Partizan (Belgrade), Radnicki (Nis), Buducnost (Podgorica), and Vojvodina (Novi Sad)

Crvena zvezda (eng. Red Star) won the football Championship League in 1991 (in that time known as European Champions Cup) as well as Toyota cup in the same year.

Some of the Serbia and Montenegro world famous football players: Dragan Stojkovic-Piksi, Dejan Savicevic, Mateja Kezman, Darko Kovacevic, Predrag Mijatovic...

Basketball- alias European Dream team¹⁰.

Some of the world known players are: Vlade Divac, Predrag Stojakovic, Dejan Bodiroga...

VOLLEYBALL: Also very popular sport in Serbia and Montenegro. Some of the most famous players are: Vladimir I Nikola Grbic, Ivan Miljkovic...

Just to mention also very succesfull and popular sports in Serbia and Montenegro: waterpool, handball, athletics...

RADIO AND TV

There is a lot of radio and TV stations all around the Serbia and Montenegro, although they don't have programs for tourists. Exemptions are a few television which have headlines in English few times a day.

Most of the hotels have a cable or satellite TV.

Also see:

<http://www.b92.net/media/links.phtml> – Media in Serbia and Montenegro

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USEFUL NUMBERS

Police
Tel: 92

Fire
Tel: 93

First aid
Tel: 94

Road assistance (AMSJ)
Tel: 3441-515

Help on the road
Tel: 987

Weather report
Tel: 9823

Railroad station Belgrade - (working hours 06-22)
Tel: 636-493

Information on telephone numbers
Tel: 988

COAST

On the Montenegrin Seaside (the coastline of 293 km) there is numerous sand and pebble beaches - 117 in total, 73 km in length of which sand beaches make 33 km.

The capacity of the beaches is 230,000 bathers. The fact that the air temperature over six months of the year is higher than 18C, together with the adequate water temperature and increased insulation, make the Montenegrin Seaside one of the warmest and sunniest tourist regions in Europe.

The old town of Kotor and the Tara canyon are of particular value and under the protection of UNESCO. There are four national parks, which are the most attractive and ecologically best preserved nature reserves ([Durmitor](#), [Biogradska gora](#), [Lake Skadar](#), and [Lovcen](#)). The intentions are to establish two more (Orjen and Prokletije).

PHONES

To call Serbia and Montenegro from abroad dial your international access code then 381 (country code of Serbia and Montenegro)

The international access code from Serbia and Montenegro is 99.

Calling from hotels, restaurants and other facilities is usually very expensive, but there are telephone boxes, usually very visible. You may buy a telephone card on almost every tobacco shop or newsletter shops.

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MOBILE PHONES

Serbia and Montenegro use GSM 900/1800, which is compatible with rest of the Europe.
If you are using GSM phone, check with your provider about using it in Serbia and Montenegro and prices of roaming calls

TRAFFIC INFORMATION/TOLL PRICES

Toll Prices for vehicles with foreign reg. plates

DIN	E 75 Beograd - Novi Sad	E 75 N. Sad-Subotica-Feketic	E 75 Beograd - Nis	E 75 Nis - Leskovac	E 70 Beograd - Sid
I category	300 (4.54) ¹¹	300 (4.54)	790 (11.96)	180 (2.73)	380 (5.76)
II category	480 (7.27)	480 (7.27)	1,160 (17.58)	300 (4.54)	560 (8.48)
III category	780 (11.81)	900 (13.64)	2,320 (35.15)	600 (9.09)	1,125 (17.05)
IV category	1,500(22.73)	2,000 (30.30)	4,640 (70.30)	1,300 (19.70)	2,245 (34.02)

*Note: All toll prices must be paid in domestic currency (Dinars)

I CATEGORY: Vehicles up to 1,3 m height /from the front axle of the vehicle/ - motorcycles and passenger cars

II CATEGORY: Vehicles with or without trailers up to 1,3 m height /from the front axle or the towing vehicle/ with more than 2 axle - passenger cars with trailers

III CATEGORY: Vehicles over 1,3 m height /from the front axle of the towing vehicle/ with 2 or 3 axles - station wagons, buses, lorries with 2 or 3 axles.

IV CATEGORY: Vehicles over 1,3 m height /from the front axle of towing vehicle/ with more than 3 axles - all vehicles with more than 3 axles.

Traffic information and other information on touring for motorists can be obtained from AMS SCG International Alarm and Information Center by phone,

daily from 0-24 hours: ++381 11 9800

SUBTITLES

All movies are subtitled so you can visit some movie theater in your free time. Ticket price is from 1.5 to 5 EURO (depends of the cinema)

¹¹ prices converted to Euro. 1EURO=66 din (valid on November 2002)

COUNTRY PROFILE - SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

NIGHT LIFE

House music, drum `n` bass, hip-hop, alternative rock, are very popular in the clubs all around the Serbia and Montenegro. Almost every night you can be certain to find fun in the bigger cities in Serbia and Montenegro.

Most bars and clubs are open until 1-1.30 in the morning over the week, and on weekends until 4-4.30 in the morning.

SUPERMARKETS/ALCOHOL & TOBACCO

You can buy alcohol or tobacco in every supermarket if you are 18 or over. Supermarkets are usually open until 08 in the evening, but there are 24hours working shops.