

Montenegro

Last update:	3 juni 2020
Population:	628,060
Prime minister:	Duško Marković
President:	Milo Đukanović
Governemental type:	Republic
Ruling coalition:	Democratic Party of Socialists, the Liberal Party and the Social Democrats
Last election:	2018 (presidential elections)
Next election:	2020 (parliamentary elections)
Sister parties:	Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), Social Democratic Party (SD, SDP split-off)

After having managed to peacefully survive the 1990s wars that led to the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Montenegro's politics and its society were determined by the relations with and independence from Serbia. In 2006 a majority of 55.5 per cent declared in a referendum to be in favour of independence, narrowly passing the official 55.5 per cent threshold. Anno 2018 Montenegro is in the process of EU accession - talks have been opened on all of the 33 negotiation chapters and provisionally closed three. On the one hand, the country has relatively good relations with other countries in South-East Europe, is a frontrunner in the region when it comes to LGBTI Rights, has appointed an independent special prosecutor to tackle organised crime and high-level corruption, considerably improved the relations between civil society and the government, aligned its foreign policy with the EU and became a NATO member in 2017. On the other hand, however, business tycoons are dominating an economy that mostly runs on remittances and tourism, major incidents around election day are the rule rather than the exception, and the country has never experienced a change of power at elections.

Political Situation

Montenegro became a NATO member in June 2017. The country is also a candidate country for the EU, having opened all of the thirty three chapters in the EU negotiations, with three provisionally closed. The initial invitation to NATO led to protests by pro-Serbian parties and their supporters. Further protests were fueled by the opposition alliance Democratic Front (DF) who voiced accusations of corruption, undemocratic practices and election fraud against President Milo Đukanović (Democratic Party of Socialists, DPS). During the elections of 2016, several incidents occurred reflecting the seemingly mutually exclusive support for NATO and Europe, on the one hand, and Russia, on the other. In the end, a 'pro-West' coalition was formed led by DPS, who got the majority of votes. Although divided, the opposition has become stronger due to the reforms that went along with the EU integration process. The Russian government has been critical of Montenegro's bid to join NATO, which culminated in a coup attempt on 16 October 2016. Russia still has a large economic presence in Montenegro, with almost 30 per cent of Foreign Direct Investment in 2016 going to Montenegro coming from Russia. This, on top of the fact that roughly one-third of foreign companies operating in the country are owned by Russians. Although Russia has 'lost' Montenegro to NATO, the country remains determined to exert influence in the region.

After World War II Montenegro became one of the six equal republics of the Yugoslav federation. After the disintegration of Yugoslavia, Montenegro remained in a union with Serbia as the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. On 21 May 2006 a referendum was held, where the majority of the Montenegrin population (55.5 per cent) declared to be in favour of independence. With that, the threshold of 55 per cent, as stippled by the EU, was narrowly passed. Montenegro's first parliamentary and presidential elections as an independent state as well as the parliamentary elections of October 2012 did not bring any big political changes.

Since 1998 SDP and DPS ruled together. The coalition has become less stable over time. At the national level, DPS blocked the

adoption of a new electoral law. Failure to adopt this electoral law could lead to a serious political crisis. After the blockade, the main opposition party, the Democratic Front Party, left the parliament. They accused the DPS of obstructing the Assembly and urged the DPS to take responsibility for the political crisis. On the local level, the rupture between the two-party became apparent in 2013. This, while on a national level, the parties only broke just before the parliamentary election in 2016.

The blockade of the DPS has deepened the distrust between the opposition and the government, which started on April 2013 with electoral fraud and the misuse of state resources with regards to the presidential elections, announced the Democratic Front. Next to the national level, friction at the local level was visible as well; during local elections in 2013, the SDP decided to work together with an opposition party, which had never happened since DPS and SDP started ruling together. This new alliance could cause friction within the national coalition. For the April 2014 local elections in the capital of Podgorica, SDP formed a pre-election coalition with the new opposition party: 'Positive'.

Coup attempt

The country has been immersed in a coup drama since the 16 October general elections when authorities arrested 20 people accused of planning armed attacks against government institutions. This group consisted of mostly Serb nationals, but also included two Russian citizens, Eduard Sirokov and Vladimir Popov, and two Montenegrin opposition leaders.

Prime Minister at that time Milo Đukanović (DPS), whose party came out first in the election but without a parliamentary majority, had presented the vote as a chance for Montenegro's 620,000 citizens to endorse his policy of joining NATO and the EU, instead of pursuing deeper ties with allies in Serbia and Russia.

Since then, tensions have built up, and the situation became even tenser after the nation's special prosecutor lifted the parliamentary immunity of two leaders who were suspected of having participated in a failed coup. In February 2017, riot police were stationed to restrain hundreds of protesters who gathered in front of the parliament in Podgorica to protest against the motion lifting the two leaders' immunity. It is assumed by the government that the coup to attack Montenegro's parliament and kill Đukanović was directed by Russian intelligence officers to sabotage the country's plan to join NATO.

Nonetheless, Montenegro joined NATO in April 2017 as the parliament voted 46-0 for joining the alliance. The opposition boycotted the vote and protested outside the parliament building. Only SDP voted, from the opposition, for NATO membership. The relationship between Podgorica and Moscow has further deteriorated due to Montenegro's NATO membership.

Parliament, dominated by the Democratic Party of Socialists, lifted one of the opposition leaders Medojević's immunity as per requested by the special prosecutor for organised crime, Milivoje Katnic. Katnic said police should take Medojević in for questioning, after which a decision on his possible arrest would be made. Medojević is known as one of the sharpest critics of the government and the ruling party run by veteran leader Milo Đukanović.

But the question remains whether this was a genuine coup attempt. On the one hand, it is claimed that it was a sinister effort to overturn a democratically elected administration and take over the country by force. On the other, critical analysts argue that it was a carefully choreographed event, designed to win sympathy for a controversial and allegedly corrupt ruling party that has been in power since 1991 on the verge of decreasing public support.

These critics believe that the government sought to manipulate the situation to its advantage. Although the indictment says Velimirović told authorities about the plot several days before the election, there was no mention of it in the media until election day itself, when the arrests of several alleged conspirators were announced. Internet communication services such as WhatsApp and Viber were cut off for hours during the day. All of these elements contributed to the sense that the country was in danger — a sense that may have persuaded some voters to rally behind the ruling party for the sake of stability.

Corruption

After the presidential elections in April 2013, won narrowly by DPS candidate Filip Vujanović, allegations of misuse of public resources were even more prominent. Under pressure from the opposition, the SDP (junior partner in the governing coalition) and Brussels, the so-called process of 'restoring confidence in the electoral process' started. An inquiry team was founded in which all the parties were represented, in addition to the representatives from the NGO sector, while Brussels also provided technical assistance.

The Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2013 states that pervasive corruption, marked by nepotism, political favouritism, and weak controls over conflicts of interest in all branches of the government is one of the biggest problems in Montenegro. In the 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Transparency International, Montenegro scored 45, which is one point more than in 2013. Since 2013 it has moved from the 67th position to the 64th position (together with Oman, Senegal, South Africa and Suriname).

Freedom of media continues to be a problem in Montenegro and in December 2015 the European Parliament's Montenegro rapporteur condemned the attacks on activists and politicians by the media and urged in a resolution to continue OSCE-facilitated dialogue on improving ethical and professional standards in the media.

EU accession

In 2008, Montenegro applied for EU membership. In December 2011, the Council launched the accession process intending to open negotiations in June 2012, which started on the 29th of June. Since its accession process, each year, the European Commission has presented a (progress) report for Montenegro. In the 2016 report, it was said that Montenegro's priority should be reformed and concern the rule of law, which could be 'demonstrated by tangible results on fighting corruption and organised crime'. Prioritising rule of law was important because it would determine the pace of the negotiations. The EU also stressed the need to improve the economy due to increasing public debt and to strengthen the administrative capacity to ensure the application of the European acquis. Currently, 33 out of 33 chapters are opened and 3 chapters have been provisionally closed.

For the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) and their leader Milo Đukanović, the EU accession is less favourable. In the case of accession, there would be more supervision on his work, powers would be transferred to the parliament and the rule of law would be strengthened. This will put pressure on the power basis of Đukanović and could result in charges against him, something we have seen happen in Croatia with former Prime Minister Ivo Sander. Moreover, the accession process gives other parties less of a reason to work together with the DPS. In 2012 the SDP was part of the Coalition for a European Montenegro led by Đukanović. This, instead of following an independent political course. In 2016, after a split within their party, the SDP left the ruling coalition and following the announcement of a vote of no confidence, voted against the government. The split provided an opportunity for SDP to reform and modernise into a citizens' party, transparent and open to outside influence and a focal point for civil society and human rights activists. Furthermore, the party could engage in new partnerships with the progressive opposition that will have more room to manoeuvre as the EU accession negotiations move on.

In February 2019, protests against President Milo Đukanović and his government started, calling on his resignation following the accusation of corruption and electoral fraud. The protests kicked off after media revealed footage and documents that appear to show top officials accepting suspicious funds for the party of Đukanović, exposing the so-called "Atlas" and "Envelope" affairs. The DPS and Đukanović quickly denied any wrongdoing claiming that all donations were recorded in the party's financial records.

Opposition parties supported the protests, which ended in summer 2019, but refrained from taking a leading role in the organisation behind the demonstrations or address the crowd. The organisation behind the protests is called Odupri Se! (Resist!) and consist of an informal group of intellectuals, academics, activists and journalists. The official demand of the movement was that the government should fold for the formation of a technical government because the conditions for free and transparent elections are not in place. Moreover, they called for the resignation of President Đukanović and the chief prosecutor for organised crime, amongst other people. The movements were supported by people from the entire political landscape, with left-wing, moderate and right-wing factions working together in an attempt to oust the current government. On 4 December the Anti-Corruption Agency, ASK, published a report and subsequent ruling about the affair after it was pressured by opposition parties to release it. The ruling concluded that the DPS had failed to report 47.500 euro in donations, and issued a fine of 20.000 in response.

Representation of women

Women remain significantly underrepresented in Montenegrin politics. In the presidential election of 2008, no female candidates competed. The 2012 parliamentary elections provided for an improvement in women election participation with a total of 264 women that stood as candidates, declared to be a significant increase from past elections. In 2016, 15 out of 81 seats in the parliament are held by women, which is two more than in 2012. This is the highest share of women in the history of this institution. However, Montenegro lags behind on other Western-Balkan countries.

Parliamentary Elections

The Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) of current Prime Minister Milo Đukanović won the parliamentary elections in Montenegro on 16 October 2016 with 41 per cent of the votes. After winning yet another election in October 2016, 'father of the nation' and long-time Prime Minister Milo Đukanović (Democratic Party of Socialists, DPS) resigned after having been in power since 1991. This was the third time Djukanovic 'left' politics, despite always remaining very influential as he was believed to be pulling the strings from the backstage. During his breaks in power, he remained leader of the ruling DPS and it is expected that he will continue to be the party leader in the years ahead. His confidant Duško Marović formed a ruling coalition with the SPD split-off Social Democrats (SD) and the national minority parties (Bosnian, Albanian and Croatian). With the 36 seats of the DPS, the 2 seats of the SD and 4 seats of the national minority parties, the ruling coalition has a slight majority of 42 out of 81 seats. The voter turnout on 16 October was 71 per cent despite the flashmob of 'staying lazy' on elections day, which was actively spread via social media.

Election results

Party	% of the votes	Seats
Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS)	41.41 %	36
Democratic Front (DF)	20.32 %	18
Ključ (Key) Coalition	11.05 %	9
Democratic Montenegro	10.01 %	8
Social Democratic Party (SDP)	5.23 %	4
Social Democrats	3.26 %	2
Bosniak Party	3.16 %	2
Positive Montenegro	1.32 %	0
Albanians Decisively	1.27 %	1
Albanian Coalition	0.89 %	0
Croatian Civic Initiative	0.47 %	1

*These parties did not compete in the 2012 elections

Presidential Elections

On 15 April 2018 voters could cast their ballots for the presidential elections. Of the seven candidates, the major candidates were Milo Đukanović of the ruling DPS, independent Mladen Bojanić (who was nevertheless supported by most opposition parties) and Draginja Vuksanović of the SDP. Incumbent president Filip Vujanović is ineligible for re-election. Leading up to the elections, the opposition tried to unite against the long-ruling DPS. Six-time prime minister Đukanović was nominated in early March by the DPS to run. In reaction to this decision most political parties, except for the SDP, united behind Bojanić.

Candidate	Number of votes	Percentage
Milo Đukanović	180,274	53.90%
Mladen Bojanić	111,711	33.40%
Draginja Vuksanović	27,441	8.20%
Voter Turnout	340,462	63.92%

Campaign and election

The long rule of Đukanović's DPS was one of the central issues of the campaign. After serving once as president and six times as prime minister, most of the opposition parties wanted Mladen Bojanić to end his continuous rule. Bojanić accused the veteran leader of "capturing the state." Many of the current problems, like the recent [wave of violence](#) caused by criminal organizations,

have existed in Montenegro since the start of the rule of Đukanović according to Bojanic. "I agree with Đukanović that the state is stronger than the mafia. But the problem is that I do not know which side he is on."

Although the vote was relatively free, monitoring groups like [CEMI and CT](#), reported voter irregularities at numerous polling stations. Members of the DPS were seen recording voters outside polling stations, possibly pressuring them. In the town of Berane, there were reports of possible vote-buying. Even very limited manipulation can have a major influence on the result: Montenegro is a small country and only 180.000 people voted for Đukanović which results in 53.9 per cent of the vote.

Social Democratic Parties

Social Democratic Party (SDP)

Party Leader: Draginja Vuksanovic

Number of seats: 4

<http://www.sdp.co.me/>

The SDP was founded in June 1993 after a merger of the Social Democratic Reform Party and the Socialist Party of Montenegro. The party is firmly anti-war oriented and strongly opposed to Milosević. Its main goal is the development of a "democratic internationally recognised and independent Montenegro that keeps abreast with Europe in order to provide better life, greater rights, freedoms and happiness for every person and for all people". Over the years SDP remained a relatively small party (around 5 percent of the votes), however, at the parliamentary elections in 2009 SDP succeeded in getting just over 11 percent of the votes, which meant 9 out of 81 seats in the parliament. The party managed to attract more young progressive voters and became the third biggest party in the country. Despite being a relatively small party, SDP managed to play a notable role in the political scene over the years. Although regarded by critics as the small supportive brother of the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS), at the local elections in 2010 SDP ran separately from DPS for the first time in a decade and got its best election result: around 15 percent of the votes. During the 2012 parliamentary elections, the DPS was a part of the European Montenegro coalition, together with the Democratic party of Socialists and the Liberal Party, which managed to secure 45.6 percent of the votes and thus 39 seats out of the 81 in parliament.

SDP is member of Socialist International and associate party of Party of European Socialists (PES).

Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS)

Party Leader: Milo Đukanović

Number of seats: 36

<http://www.dps.me/>

The Democratic Party of Socialists, founded in 1991, is a successor to the former leading League of Communists. In 1992 the party supported the continued existence of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Until October 1997 the party was led by former President of Montenegro Bulatovic (from December 1990 – October 1997). In January 1998 Milovan Djukanović was sworn in as President of the Republic, after beating his former ally Bulatovic – who was removed from the party – in the presidential race. In the same year he was elected Chairman of DPS and has led the party ever since. With Djukanović becoming president, DPS took more and more distance from Milosevic. The pro-Serbian, pro-Milosevic element then broke away in 1998 to form a new party, the Socialist People's Party. At the fourth party congress in 2011, the DPS reinvented its main goals, fighting for a democratic, internationally recognised and independent state of Montenegro. DPS holds such an independent Montenegro is the main condition for its development and Europeanization. Furthermore, other leading issues in its platform are tolerance and improvement of life standards for all citizens of Montenegro.

The DPS has won every general election in Montenegro since the first multi-party elections of 1990. In June 2012, the DPS-led government celebrated the official start of membership talks with the EU. Additionally, the party strongly favours joining NATO,

despite the lack of popular support for this idea. Nominally a social democratic party, opposition parties accuse it of pursuing neo-liberal economic policies and of disregarding welfare safeguards. It is said to be one of the best organized parties in the region, with approximately 100,000 members. Polls show that, despite the existence of ethnic minority parties in Montenegro, many members of those minorities, such as Bosniaks and Albanians, prefer to vote for the DPS.

In the 2012 elections, the party ran as the leader of the European Montenegro coalition, which won 45.6 percent of the votes and thus 39 seats out of the 81 in parliament. Its leader, Djukanović is said to once again take the post of Prime Minister.

DPS is member of Socialist International and associate party of Party of European Socialists (PES).

Social Democrats of Montenegro (DS)

Party Leader: Ivan Brajovic

Number of seats: 2

<http://sdcg.me/>

In 2015 the Social Democrats of Montenegro was created as a new political party by a split faction of the SDP. Almost half of the party officials left the SDP and joined the newly established Social Democrats (SD) that consist of prominent SDP members who are close to the DPS. After the elections of 2016, the SD joined the ruling coalition with DPS and several national minorities parties, having won two seats in the parliament.

The SD is led by Ivan Brajovic, former vice-president of the SDP. The SD ideology is similar to the DPS, pursuing neoliberal economic policies and pro-Europeanism.

Other Parties

Socialist People's Party (SNP)

Party Leader: Vladimir Jokovic

Number of seats:

<http://www.snp.co.me/>

Former federal Prime Minister Momir Bulatović, considered as a puppet of Milosevic, was party leader until February 2001. He was replaced by Predrag Bulatović. The SNP formed a pre-election coalition with the NS and DSS and within this coalition (11 seats) holds 8 seats in the parliament. After the 10 September 2006 elections, which turned out a big disappointment for the SNP, Predrag Bulatovic announced his resignation. Srdjan Milic was elected new party leader on 26 November 2006. After the 2006 referendum their behavior has been quite moderate comparing to the politics of the far right Democratic Front. Vladimir Jokovic is the current party leader.

In the 2012 elections it won the support of 10.6 percent of the voters and thus secured nine seats in parliament. It currently has no seats in the parliament.

Movement for Changes (PZP)

Party Leader: Nebojsa Medojević

Number of seats:

<http://www.promjene.org/>

The PZP was founded by top economists and academics in September 2002 as a group seeking to promote Montenegro's EU accession and acceleration of reforms. On 15 July 2006, Nebojsa Medojević, Chairman of the Movement for Change modified the

statutes of his organisation in order to turn it into a political party under the name Movement for Change (PZP). The new party would like to have a government of experts responsible for the revision of privatisation and the adoption of a new constitution. The party is not only part of the opposition to the present government but it also rejects the present system based, in its opinion, on unstable and faulty foundations, corruption, theft and ignorance. However, the PZP is now far right, pro-Trump, anti immigrant, anti Islamic party and anti LGBT party.

During the 2012 parliamentary elections, the PZP ran in a coalition with the New Serb Democracy, forming the Democratic Front coalition. Democratic Front won 23.8 percent of the votes and 20 mandates.

New Serbian Democracy (NOVA)

Party Leader: Andrija Mandić

Number of seats:

<http://www.nova.org.me>

New Serbian Democracy or NOVA, is one of the newest political parties in Montenegro, formed on 24 January 2009 as a merger between the Serb People's Party and the People's Socialist Party of Montenegro.

New Serb Democracy is led by Andrija Mandić, leader of the former Serb List. Mandić sought to transform the Serb List into a more civic-oriented party, in order to boost the party's coalition potential, and even the dropping of the Serb prefix from the newly formed party's name was considered. This idea was met with strong resistance during the merger talks.

The party won 8 seats in the 2009 parliamentary elections. In 2012 it participated in the Democratic Front coalition which won 23.8 percent and 20 mandates.

Positive Montenegro (PCG)

Party Leader: Darko Pajović

Number of seats:

<https://www.facebook.com/PozitivnaCrnaGora/>

Positive Montenegro is one of the newest parties in the country, formed in May 2012 under the leadership of former green activist Darko Pajovic with the aim of showcasing new people and ideas. Positive Montenegro presents itself as a new, civic, centre-left force with a "clean past". It aims to focus on socio-economic issues. It further strives for a more moderate rhetoric than some of the older parties like the Movement for Changes and it steers clear of quarrels over issues of national identity. The party advocates a socially responsible state, arguing for tight controls of natural resources and help for those who are struggling with the market economy.

It ran independently in the 2012 election and won 8.9 percent support and reserved seven seats in parliament. It has no seats in the parliament since 2016.

The Bosniak Party (BS)

Party Leader: Rafet Husović

Number of seats: 2

<http://www.bscg.me/>

Founded in 2006 to protect the interests of the Bosniak [Muslim] minority, which makes up 7.7 percent of the population according to the 2003 census, the Bosniak Party was formed out of a merger of four small parties: the International Democratic Union, the Party For Democratic Action, the Democratic Alliance of Bosniaks and the Party of National Equality. The party lent the DPS-led government significant support in the independence referendum of 2006. Since the Bosniak minority is concentrated in certain areas of the country, the party favours devolving powers to regions.

The BS has decided to run in the 2012 general election independently, winning 4.17 percent and three seats in parliament. It is said to provide majority support to the European Montenegro coalition.

The Democratic Union of Albanians (DUA)

Party Leader: Ferhat Dinosa

Number of seats:

Led by Ferhat Dinosa, the Democratic Union of Albanians is one of the four parties that aim to protect the rights of the country's ethnic Albanian minority, who make up 5,03 percent of the population according to the 2003 census. It has one seat in parliament. The other three parties are Forca, the Democratic League of Montenegro and the Albanian Alternative. Each also has one seat in the Skupstina.

Liberal Party of Montenegro (LPCG)

Party Leader: Andrija Popović

Number of seats:

<http://www.lpcg.me/>

The Liberal Party of Montenegro was founded in 2004. It describes itself as a party that has been continually anti-war, liberal and standing for the idea of statehood since the beginning of the 1990s. The party was part of the European Montenegro coalition at the 2012 general elections and has one seat in the parliament.

Biographies

Milo Đukanović

President

Milo Đukanović was born on 15 February 1962 in Nikšić. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics at the University of Montenegro, Podgorica. In 1979, while still in high school, Đukanović joined the Yugoslav Communist League. By 1986 he was a presidency member of the Socialist Youth Alliance's (SSO) Montenegrin branch as well as the presidency member of its federal-level parent organisation. As a member of the party's various youth bodies he earned the nickname Britva ('Straight razor') for his direct, fiery and forceful rhetoric. Progressing steadily up the party ladder, by mid-1989 Đukanović became a member of the League's highest decision making body, the Central Committee. He became the Secretary of the Presidency of the League of Communists of Montenegro, a post he held until the parties' transformation into Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS).

In 1991 he was elected prime minister, becoming the youngest PM in Europe. On 15 January 1998 he was sworn in as President of the Republic, after winning the presidential elections. In the same year he was elected Chairman of DPS. Having led the Democratic Coalition for a European Montenegro to victory in the parliamentary election in October 2002, he was nominated PM Designate of Montenegro. On 8 January he was elected PM for his fourth term. In May 2006 he led the Block for Independent Montenegro at a referendum in which 55.5 percent voted in favour of Montenegrin independence. In the 2006 elections his Coalition for a European Montenegro (DPS and Social Democratic Party, SDP) won an absolute majority.

Although he chose to step down in late 2006, he remained president of DPS. He returned to office as PM after his coalition won the 2009 early elections with an absolute majority, securing him a sixth term in office.

In July 2003, the public prosecutor's office in Naples linked Đukanović with an organised crime network, mainly related to tobacco smuggling during the UN embargo on Yugoslavia. Đukanović denied the allegations as a "loathsome political trick", aimed at criminalising him and his country. The Italian authorities dropped all charges against him in April 2009.

In December 2010 Đukanović for the second time resigned his post as PM, saying he would still play an important role in the ruling DPS. Announcing his resignation he said "the conditions have been created for him to step down". However, he continued to lead the DPS during the 2012 parliamentary elections, securing a win for his party, and returned as a prime minister with the new cabinet in 2012.

In 2018 he became president of Montenegro.

Duško Marković

Prime Minister

Duško Marković is a Montenegrin politician and the current Prime Minister of Montenegro. He is also Deputy president of ruling Democratic Party of Socialists.

Draginja Vuksanovic

President of the Social Democratic Party

Draginja Vuksanovic is Montenegrin jurist, politician and professor of law, she currently is the president of the Social Democratic Party. She was elected as president of the Social Democratic party on 29 June 2019. In 2018 she was the first female presidential candidate in the history of the country, she came in third receiving 8,2% of the votes.

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