



FACTSHEET

REALITY CHECK (OUT) FROM MONTENEGRO: A ROADMAP TO BRAIN GAIN

ABOUT THE TARGET GROUP:

19% of respondents live in the Western Balkans,
81% in the rest of the world

60% of respondents considered returning to
Montenegro

132 respondents: highly qualified young people
employed around the world, ages 24 to 40

86% of respondents considered contributing
to Montenegro from abroad

KEY REASONS FOR EMIGRATION:

1. The most frequently cited reason is Montenegro's socio-political situation. Additional concerns: public administration system, the rule of law, health care, and education.
2. Limited access to the labor market and a weak work(place) culture. Lack of access to the labor market for certain professions, and a lack of opportunities for further professional training and promotion at work.
3. Low living standards and income - stated only as the third or fourth reason for emigration - frequently have a significant impact on young people's sense of autonomy.
4. The pursuit of a more diverse and better educational offer abroad which often leads to international professional opportunities.
5. The desire to discover the world - as a natural part of growing up.
6. Resistance to positive change in society. Positive examples, experiences, and stories are frequently not given prominence in public and media discourse.

MONTENEGRO:

620 029 inhabitants¹

132 702 young people aged between 15 and
29 – **21.4%**

a workforce of **419 948** inhabitants aged
between 15 and 64 - **67.5%** of the total
population²

10 923 unemployed young people aged
between 15 and 30
21.6% of the total number of unemployed
people³

2010-2019: almost **14,500** (10,73%) less young
people⁴

70,3% of young people consider leaving
Montenegro⁵

Nota bene: The full study, as well as a list of all recommendations, can be found at: www.omsa.me

¹ MONSTAT, 2011, Montenegro - CENSUS.

² Employment Agency of Montenegro, 2022, "Monthly Statistical Report - 30.04.2022."

³ Employment Agency of Montenegro, 2022, "Monthly Statistical Report - 30.04.2022."

⁴ Western Balkans Youth Lab, 2021, "Mapping of youth policies and identification of existing support and gaps in financing of youth actions in the Western Balkans."

⁵ Westminster Foundation for Democracy, 2019, "Youth perceptions and attitudes towards politics in Montenegro."