



Montenegro and Slovenia freest in the Balkans, Bosnia and Serbia at the very back

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According to The Human Freedom Index, Montenegro and Slovenia are the freest, while Serbia is the least free country in the Balkans. The info is available at the site www.cato.org

According to a very detailed report of the US Cato Institute on the theme "The Human Freedom Index", which is based on personal, civil and economic freedoms, Montenegro ranks 40th out of 152 countries in the world. The report is co-published by the Cato Institute, the Fraser Institute (Canada) and the Liberales Institut (Germany).

Immediately after Montenegro, from the regional countries, follows Slovenia, member of the European Union, which is ranked 41st on this prestigious list of the freest countries in the world.

After Slovenia comes Croatia on the 44th place, then Macedonia 45th, Albania 54th, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, positioned on the 56th place according to the Index of personal freedoms.

According to this list, the least free country in the Balkan region is Serbia, located currently on the 80th place.

It is interesting that the list cites countries such as Chile, which is ranked 18th in the list, Taiwan 24th, Korea 31st, Uruguay 34th and Costa Rica 39th, just ahead of Montenegro.

Of the countries in the broader region of the Balkans, Romania is the freest on the 32nd place, Hungary on the 38th, Bulgaria shares place with Slovenia on the 41st, and Greece is ranked 46th on the list.

The least free European countries are Serbia, Ukraine (which is ranked 74th) and Moldova (64th).

On the other hand, the freest country in the world is Hong Kong (the report did not measure democracy), followed by Switzerland, Finland, Denmark, New Zealand, Canada, Australia, Ireland, United Kingdom and Sweden.

Among the 20 freest countries in the world are Norway, Austria, Germany, Iceland, the Netherlands, Malta, Luxembourg, Chile, Mauritius and the United States.

According to the Cato Institute, 13 of the 20 freest countries in the world are located in Europe.

The least free country in the world is Iran, followed by Congo, Myanmar, Zimbabwe, Yemen, Central African Republic, Algeria, Ethiopia, Venezuela, Chad and Saudi Arabia.

From other countries, it is worth noting the US comes 20th, Japan 28th, France 33rd, India 75th, Brazil 82nd, Russia 111th, China 132nd, and Egypt 136th.

The report of the American Institute stated on Twitter "The Human Freedom Index is the most comprehensive index on freedom for a globally meaningful set of countries".

Report looked at 76 indicators in 152 countries to capture the degree to which people are free to engage in voluntary exchange and enjoy major liberties such as freedom of speech, religion, and association. It also included measures on freedom of movement, women's freedoms, safety and security, and rule of law. Data from 2008 to 2012 was used as the most recent year for which sufficient data was available.