

Kaçanik/Kaçanik

September 2009

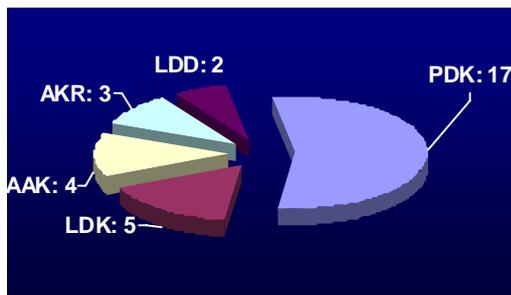
1. Area and population

• Kačanik/Kaçanik municipality is located in south-eastern Kosovo and stretches along the main road between Prishtinë/Priština and Skopje¹. The municipality covers 211 square kilometres and consists of one town (Kačanik/Kaçanik) and 31 villages. The main road to the border of former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and local roads are in poor condition, too. The water supply is generally good but electricity supply is often short of need. Since April 2007, the land line for telephone communication has been digitalized. Around 90 percent of the municipality is also covered by mobile phone network. The population is estimated at 38,000. With the exception of five Kosovo Roma, Kačanik/Kaçanik is exclusively inhabited by Kosovo Albanians. At the time of the 1981 census, 223 Kosovo Serbs and 307 Kosovo Roma had lived in the municipality. In recent years, several go-and-see/inform visits for the Kosovo Serb and Roma displaced persons and refugees were organised. [Source: UNHCR]

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The municipal assembly is composed of 31 members elected in the November 2007 elections. The municipal assembly elected Mr. Xhelal Gashi (PDK) as the chairperson in September 2008.



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo,
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
AKR - Alliance New Kosovo
LDD - Democratic League of Dardania

• Executive

Mr. Xhabir Zharku (PDK) was elected mayor in the second round of mayoral elections in December 2007. He appointed Mr. Heset Loku (PDK) as deputy mayor in October 2008. There are seven departments functioning in the municipality: general administration; health and social welfare; education and culture; finance, economy and development; public services and emergency; agriculture, rural development and forestry; and urbanism, cadastre and environment protection. Their directors were appointed by the mayor and approved by the municipal assembly. The municipal assembly established policy and finance and communities committees in January 2008. The communities committee is chaired by representatives of opposition parties (LDD and Reformist Party - ORA), involving also civil society representatives as regular members.

• Judiciary

Kaçanik/Kaçanik municipality has a municipal court (three Kosovo Albanian judges), which operates under the Prishtinë/Priština district court, and a minor offences court (one Kosovo Albanian judge).

• Security presence

Due to the municipality's location at the border with former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo police in Kačanik/Kaçanik municipality are divided into two departments: one is based in the town of Kačanik/Kaçanik and the other at the border crossing of Gllloboçicë/Globočica. EULEX police currently monitor the 67 Kosovo Albanian police officers, out of which five are female (there are no non-majority community police officers). The department at the border crossing assists in border traffic control, while the one in town deals with crime-related issues with the exception of smuggling, which falls under the jurisdiction of the department in Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković. United States and Polish KFOR are the international military presence responsible for Kačanik/Kaçanik.

¹ Skopje is the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM).

3. Political overview

In the November 2007 municipal elections, some 49 percent of registered voters cast their ballots in Kačanik/Kaçanik municipality, some of whom were residents of the then pilot municipal unit of Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković, which was converted to a full fledged municipality in August 2008.

4. Economy

The largest employers in Kačanik/Kaçanik are “New Lepenci” and “Silcapor” factories, both producers of construction materials, which were privatised in 2005 and 2006, respectively. There are also some 1,051 family-run shops and small businesses registered and operating in the municipality (this figure includes registered shops and business in the former pilot municipal unit of Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković). Nevertheless, the majority of the population works in the agriculture sector or is unemployed. [Source: municipal department of finance, economy and development and department for agriculture, rural development and forestry]

5. Public services

• Health

The health centre in Kačanik/Kaçanik town provides first aid and general medical services and includes a maternity ward. In addition, there are two centres for family medicine and seven health stations in the villages surrounding the town which offer primary health care services. The total number of health workers is 105. [Source: municipal department for health and social welfare]

• Education

The majority of schools were reconstructed after the 1999 conflict. Twelve primary schools educate 6,199 pupils (2,996 of which are female) and employ 360 teachers and 46 support staff. There are also two secondary schools - one general and one professional (vocational studies), with 1,743 students (358 female). Both secondary schools have 89 teachers and 14 support staff. [Source: municipal department for education]

6. Map of the Region

Kaçanik / Kačanik

