

1. Area and Population

The municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka is located in south-eastern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 361 km² and includes Suharekë/Suva Reka town and 42 villages. According to the Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011 the total population is 59,722.

Ethnic composition:

1. Kosovo Albanians: 59,076
 2. Kosovo Ashkali: 493
 3. Kosovo Roma: 41
 4. Kosovo Bosniaks: 15
 5. Kosovo Egyptians: 5
 6. Kosovo Turks: 4
 7. Kosovo Serbs: 2
 8. Other: 15
 9. Not specified: 71
- (Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics)

Prior to the 1999 conflict, Kosovo Serbs and a larger number of Kosovo Roma also lived in the municipality. They are since displaced and there is no available data on their whereabouts.

2. Governing Structures and Political Overview

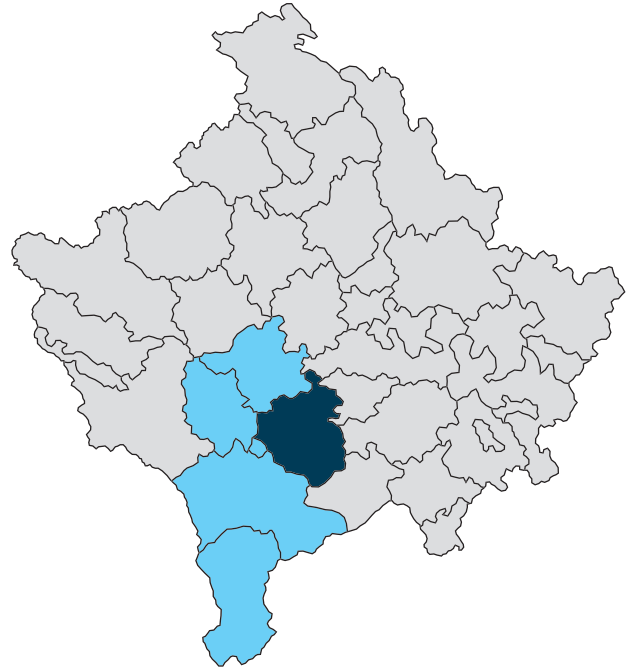
The total number of voters in Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality registered for the last municipal elections held in November 2009 was 57,617, including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout was 46.60 per cent/25,679 voters (source: Central Elections Commission).

The election results were as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| AAK Alliance for the Future of Kosovo | 34.4 % | 12 seats |
| LDK Democratic League of Kosovo | 31.5 % | 11 seats |
| PDK Democratic Party of Kosovo | 22.8 % | 8 seats |
| AKR Alliance New Kosovo | 2.8 % | 1 seat |
| LDD Democratic League of Dardania | 2.8 % | 1 seat |
| Independent Member | 2.8 % | 1 seat |
| PS Socialist Party | 2.8 % | 1 seat |

Note: In 2012 one municipal assembly member from LDD joined LDK and in January 2013 one municipal assembly member from LDK became independent.

The OSCE regional centre Prizren covers six (6) municipalities including Suharekë/Suva Reka and has field teams working in all of them.



a. Legislative

The municipal assembly has 35 seats distributed amongst seven (7) political entities; all 35 members are Kosovo Albanians while 11 are female. The municipal assembly chairperson is Vesel Maliqaj, (AAK).

b. Executive

The municipality is headed by the mayor Blerim Kuçi (AAK) and the deputy mayor, Refki Bytyçi (AAK). It has ten (10) departments and department directors: education (AAK); culture youth and sports (AAK); health and social welfare (AAK); finance, economy and development (AAK); general administration and inspection (AAK); public services and emergency (AAK); agriculture forestry and rural development (AAK); urbanism, planning and environment protection (AAK); cadastre and property (AAK); and diaspora (AAK) (source: municipal web site).

3. Judiciary

Prizren basic court has a branch in Suharekë/Suva Reka with seven (7) Kosovo Albanian judges, of which one (1) is female (source: basic court).

Additional information

Prizren basic prosecutor's office covers the municipality.

4. Security Presence

The Kosovo police station in Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality has 93 police officers; 92 Kosovo Albanians, one (1) Kosovo Bosniak, while 14 are female. 82 police officers are stationed in Suharekë/Suva Reka police station, and 11 are stationed in the police sub-station in Mushtisht/Mušetiste village.

As for the international military presence, Austrian KFOR covers the area (source: Kosovo police).

5. Economy

The economy of the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka is mainly based on rubber, garment and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) production and small trade businesses. There are some 2,181 registered private businesses operating in the municipality. There is no reliable data on the number of people employed in private sector in Suharekë/Suva Reka (source: municipal directorate of urbanism, planning and environment protection).

6. Public Services

a. Infrastructure

The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka is assessed as good.

All the main roads connecting major villages with the urban centre are asphalted. Suharekë/Suva Reka town and 18 villages are connected to water supply and sewage systems. Power supply is still a problem, especially in the villages (source: municipal development plan).

b. Health

The primary health care system currently includes one (1) municipal family health centre and 12 health houses. The health sector has 163 employees, including doctors, nurses and support staff, 90 of them female and 73 male. Access: All communities have access to health care and all health facilities (source: municipal directorate of health and social welfare).

c. Education

There are 30 primary schools with 10,702 pupils and 702 teachers; two (2) secondary schools with 3,246 students and 161 teachers; and one (1) kindergarten with 81 children and three (3) teachers (source: municipal directorate of education).

7. Religious and Cultural Sites

Suharekë/Suva Reka has 22 mosques. Most of them were renovated following the conflict. Six (6) Serbian Orthodox churches have been heavily damaged and are no longer in use. One (1) Catholic church in Sallagrazhdë/Selograzde village is in use (source: municipal development plan).

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In Suharekë/Suva Reka there are:

35 seats in the municipal assembly distributed amongst 7 political entities.

93 police officers.

7 judges.

866 teachers in 29 primary and 2 secondary schools and 1 kindergarten.