

Shtime/Štimlje

September 2009

1. Area and population

• Shtime/Štimlje is a rural municipality in the south-central part of Kosovo some 30 km southwest of Prishtinë/Priština. The municipality consists of a town and 22 villages. The main road from Prishtinë/Priština to Prizren passes through the Shtime/Štimlje town. Although considerable investments were made to improve roads and the water supply system during last nine years, an improvement was noticed by the end of the 2007 when all villages were connected to the water supply network, the roads infrastructure remains unsatisfactory.

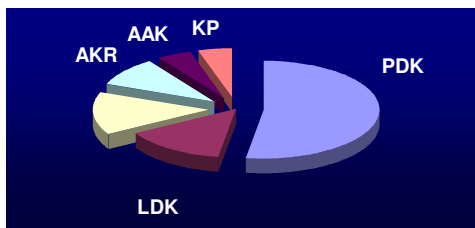
The total population is estimated at 31,000; vast majority are Kosovo Albanians with small numbers of Kosovo Ashkali (737) and Roma (21) also living there.

After the March 2004 riots, the 14 remaining Kosovo Serbs left. Currently there are no more Kosovo Serbs living in the municipality. The go-and-see visits have been organised for the Kosovo Serb displaced persons and the municipality has been promoting their return, but with no success thus far. In 2008 eight Kosovo Ashkali families (43 persons) have returned with international assistance, and in 2009 additional five families (29 persons) have returned.

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The municipal assembly consist of 21 members elected in the November 2007 municipal elections with absolute majority of the PDK. Mayor, Mr. Naim Ismajli, is from the same party.



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo, 11 seats
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo, three seats
LDD - Democratic League of Dardania, three seats
AKR - New Kosovo Alliance, two seats
AAK - Alliance for Future of Kosovo, one seat
KP - Independent Candidate, one seat

• Executive

The board of political directors is composed of a mayor and five directors. Three and a half percents (3.5 %) of the municipal employees are from the non-Albanian communities.

• Judiciary

There is no municipal court in Shtime/Štimlje. All cases are referred to the Ferizaj/Uroševac courts. The municipality has repeatedly demanded the establishment of the municipal and other municipal level courts.

• Security presence

The Kosovo police took over the responsibilities from the UNMIK Police in spring 2002. Latvian and USA KFOR contingents cover the area.

3. Political overview

Shtime/Štimlje is a stronghold of PDK. After the split in the LDK (LDD was created prior to the November 2007 elections) the main opposition was weakened. The 2007 municipal elections brought no surprise regarding the PDK. Out of 21 municipal assembly members, eleven belong to the PDK, three to LDK, three to LDD, two to AKR, one to AAK and one to the independent candidate.

4. Economy

The local economy is largely based on agriculture. There are two agricultural co-operatives in the Shtime/Štimlje town and one in the village of Muzeqinë/Mužičane, but old equipment and the lack of investment have been hampering further development of the sector. In addition, 515 businesses are registered in the municipality with 1,318 employees. The municipality has established an office to support the private businesses, yet the municipality remains the largest employer. In June 2007, the “Technologic Park” was inaugurated – an industrial zone funded by the Slovenian Government. 25 industrial buildings are to be constructed and more than 400 people are anticipated to be employed.

5. Public services

• Health

The health house is the major medical institution in the municipality. Additionally, three ambulances and eight private clinics provide medical services. The Shtime/Štimlje municipality hosts the only special mental institution in Kosovo, which is run by the Kosovo ministry of health and the ministry of labour and social welfare. Currently, it houses 176 patients, including nine children from various communities, and has 171 staff, mostly Kosovo Albanian.

• Education

The municipality has eight primary schools and one secondary school. Most schools have been renovated after the 1999 conflict, but the shortage of qualified teachers, especially for the secondary school science and mathematics, is a major problem. In Shtime/Štimlje, pupils from Kosovo Roma and Ashkali communities attend schools together with the Kosovo Albanians.

6. Map of the region

Shtime / Štimlje

