

# Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok

April 2008

## 1. Area and Population

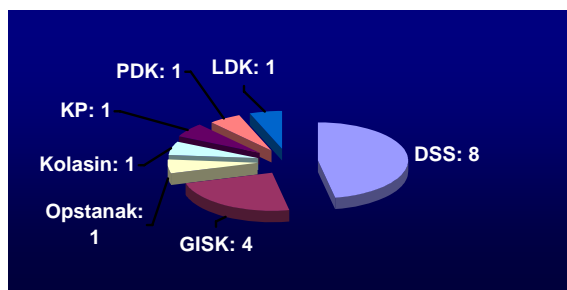
Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok Municipality is the most western of the three Kosovo Serb majority municipalities in northern Kosovo. The municipality consists of 64 villages with a total area of 335 km<sup>2</sup>. There is an artificial lake, "Gazivode," 35 km long and extending into Serbia proper. A major road, the Adriatic Highway, is in good condition yet local roads need to be repaired. The electricity supply and sewage system have always been problems while the water supply has recently been improved with foreign assistance. As for telecommunication, 90% of the area is covered by a mobile network.

The estimated total population is approximately 14,900. The vast majority is Kosovo Serbian (approximately 14,000) and approximately 800 Kosovo Albanians live in the village of Čabër/Čabra. There are about 3,000 Kosovo Serb IDPs in the municipality. The majority live in private accommodations while others in collective centres where 220 refugees from Croatia also stay. [Source: Municipal Assembly; Civil Registration 1991; National Structure of Municipalities (Yugoslav Statistic Bureau, Belgrade 1993)]

## 2. Governing Structures

### • Legislative

The Municipal Assembly comprises 17 members elected after the October 2002 Municipal Elections. The Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) has a majority and there are two Kosovo Albanian representatives, one of whom is Deputy President. It is also noted that four citizens' initiatives are represented in the Assembly. The Municipal Assembly President is Mr. Slaviša Ristić, an economist and a member of the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS).



DSS - Democratic Party of Serbia  
GISK - Socialists of Kolasin  
KP - Coalition Return  
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo  
PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo  
Opstanak - Citizens' Initiative Opstanak Zubin Potok  
Kolasin - Citizen Initiative of Kolasin

### • Executive

The United Nations Municipal Administration took over the existing Municipal Council.

The Chief Executive Officer is Mr. Miodrag Andrić of the DSS.

### • Judiciary

In January 2003, UNMIK opened Municipal Court (President: one Kosovo Serb female, Judges: court president is the only judge. There are two vacant positions. Prosecutors are based in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and cover the region and the Minor Offences Court (President: one Kosovo Serb female is in Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok).

Meanwhile, the Serbian Ministry of Justice maintains a court in the municipality as a branch of the Serbian parallel "Municipal Court of Kosovska Mitrovica," which mainly deals with civil cases.

## 3. Political Overview

While the political scene in Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok can be characterized as diverse, the DSS dominates the municipal institutions. Nine Kosovo Serb political parties have their branches and four citizens' initiatives are represented in the municipality. As for Kosovo Albanian political parties, the LDK, the PDK and the AAK (Alliance for the Future of Kosovo) are active in the village of Čabër/Čabra. The March 2004 events initially blocked the cooperation between the Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian members in the Municipal Assembly. Two months after the events, however, all Assembly members agreed to leave the events behind and continue with the work of the body. In June 2006, the municipality terminated its cooperation with the Kosovo Government and since then operates within the institutional framework of the Republic of Serbia. Municipal authorities, advised by Serbian Government, decided not to take part in Kosovo wide elections, held in November 2007. Oppositely, Kosovo Albanian community of Čabër/Čabra village entered into elections run for the Municipal assembly and Mayoral posts. LDK representative who is current Additional Deputy Municipal Assembly President has been re-elected, while the PDK representative won the Mayoral elections. Based upon precedent in the 2000 Municipal elections, when results for the three northern

municipalities were not certified on the grounds of participation by an extremely small number of eligible voters, SRSG decided not to certify the results for Mayoral or Municipal elections. Therefore, SRSG provisionally appointed members from the current Municipal Assemblies to positions within the new Municipal Assembly and the post of Mayor. The appointment is provisional for a period of six months and reflects the ethnic composition in the municipality. Current Municipal authorities will take a decision over implementation of the UNMIK Regulation No. 2007/30 upon second round of Serbian Presidential elections. Until then, Municipal Assembly will continue working within the current composition.

#### 4. Economy

Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok is basically an agricultural community, yet the level of agricultural production has been in decrease due to the lack of investment. Local factories have been also strongly affected by the lack of consumers in the Albanian parts of Kosovo. Since most factories were established as branches of main Serbian factory chains to serve the Kosovo market, their workers are still employed but work and get paid irregularly. A majority of products sold in the municipality come from the Serbia proper.

#### 5. Public Services

##### • Health

The Health House in Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok town is equipped by seven doctors and 63 support staff. There are also seven *ambulantas* in several villages including the Kosovo Albanian village Çabër/Čabra. Most are reachable by standard means of transportation but their equipment and medical supplies are limited. Patients with serious medical conditions are sent to the hospital in the northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica or to the Serbia proper. Serbs need to travel to the northern Mitrovica via alternative mountain road as the main road leads through Kosovo Albanian populated villages and are not used due to security reasons. Therefore, access to the hospital in northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica is often difficult especially in winter. [Source: Health House Director]

##### • Education

Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok has three Kosovo Serbian primary schools with approximately 600 students and 76 teachers, one high school with 230 students and 33 teachers and one kindergarten with 246 children and 27 teachers. In Çabër/Čabra, there is one primary school with 207 students and 14 teachers. Since June 2006, the Faculty of Agriculture of University of Prishtinë/Priština has been dislocated in the municipality. All employees working in the municipal education sector, except those in Çabër/Čabra, are paid by the Serbian Ministry of Education, renouncing the salary from the Kosovo Government on a directive issued by the Serbian Government's Coordination Centre for Kosovo. [Source: Department of Education, Youth and Sport]

#### 6. Map of the Region

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