

## Suharekë/Suva Reka

January 2008

### 1. Area and Population

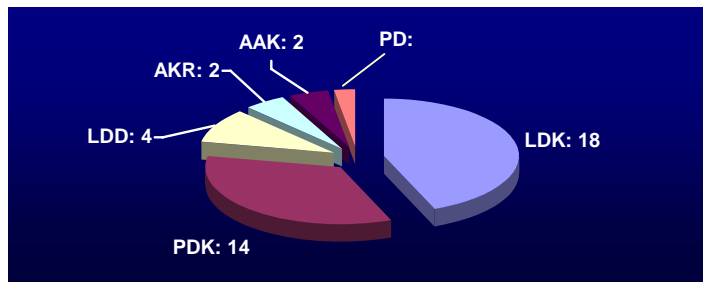
- The municipality of Suharekë/Suva Reka is located in southeast of Kosovo, including 41 villages and the town of Suharekë/Suva Reka itself.
- The 80,000 inhabitants of Suharekë/Suva Reka's pre-conflict population included roughly 3,000 Kosovo Serbs and a small number of Roma community. Today, no Kosovo Serb live in the Municipality. According to the latest unofficial statistics used by the municipality, at present 535 members of the Ashkali community live in Suharekë/Suva Reka town and in the villages of Gelac/Geljance, Trrnje/Trnje, and Leshan/Lešane while 4 members of the Roma community reside in the town. During the 1999 conflict approximately 90% of the houses suffered damage and destruction.

### 2. Governing Structures

#### • Legislative

The Municipal Assembly has 41 members elected in November 2007. So far, three main legislative committees were established: Policy and Finance Committee, the Communities Committee and the Mediation Committee. The Mayor is Mr. Sali Asllanaj (LDK). He was re-elected in November 2007 elections.

The breakdown of party affiliation and seats is as follows:



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

#### • Executive

With the new municipal structure the current Board of Directors represents nine departments. Out of 1,284 civil servants, 156 are employed in municipal administration, 978 in education, and 150 in the health sector.

#### • Judiciary

There are seven judges currently employed in Suharekë/Suva Reka courts; four judges at the Municipal Court and three judges at the Minor Offences Court.

#### • Security presence

On 12 December 2003, control of the police station in Suharekë/Suva Reka was handed over to the Kosovo Police Service, and it is managed by Kosovo Police Service while UNMIK Police has a monitoring role. Out of 133 Kosovo Police Service officers - 115 in Suharekë/Suva Reka and 18 in the village of Mushtisht/Mušutište - 120 are males and 13 females. All officers are Kosovo Albanians. The UNMIK Police branch in Suharekë/Suva Reka town operates currently with 6 international police officers. An Austrian KFOR contingent (AUCON), composed of 450 officers and soldiers, together with Kosovo Police Service is responsible for the security in Suharekë/Suva Reka municipality.

### 3. Political Overview

Eleven parties from Suharekë/Suva Reka participated in the last central and local government elections on 17 November 2007. There was a significant drop in the support for LDK, from 59% support in 2002 to 41.8%. Meanwhile, PDK has increased the percentage of its supporters from 30% in 2002 to 34%. The AKR won 5.4% of the votes, and AAK managed to keep the 5.5%, while the PD is represented for the first time in Municipal Assembly with one seat.

As a consequence of the significant drop in the number of its supporters, the LDK branch in Suharekë/Suva Reka was 'forced' to enter into a local coalition with LDD, and now the two parties together hold 22 seats in the Municipal Assembly. This coalition agreement enabled the LDK candidate to win the second round of mayoral election with a margin of 18% (59% LDK and 41% PDK candidate).

