

Pejë/Peć

March 2009

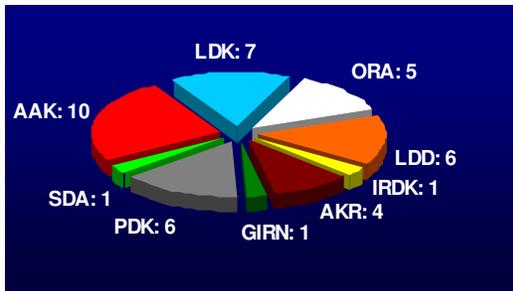
1. Area and population

- Pejë/Peć town is the centre of Kosovo's most western region, at the foothills of the mountains rising above the Rugova gorge. The municipality of Pejë/Peć is divided into 28 territorial units comprised of 95 villages. The municipality spreads over 602 km² with an approximate population of 170,000.
- The majority of the population in Pejë/Peć are Kosovo Albanians, but there are also several large non-majority communities. The majority of Kosovo Serb, some 1,000, live in Goraždevac/Gorazhdevc village and in return sites of Siga/Sigë-Brestovik/Brestovik, Belopolje/Bellopojë, Ljevoša/Levoshë; only a few live in Pejë/Peć town. There is also a large Bosniak community of about 4,500 persons in town and in Vitimirica/Vitomiricë, while some 5,000 Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians reside in urban and rural areas. [Source: Municipal communities officer]

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The municipal assembly has 41 members., The municipal mayor, Mr. Ali Berisha, and the chairperson of the municipal assembly, Mr. Ali Sylqa, are both members of the Alliance for Future of Kosova (AAK). The party affiliation and seats are as follows:



AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
LDD – Democratic League of Dardania
PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
ORA – Reformist Party
AKR – New Kosovo Alliance of Kosovo
SDA – Democratic Action Party
GIRN – Citizens Initiative Rustem Nurković
IRDK - Democratic Initiative of Kosovo

• Executive

The composition of municipal civil service is based on the law on local self-government and on the 17 November 2007 municipal elections results.

• Judiciary

The judicial system in Pejë/Peć consists of municipal, district and minor offences court. The district court is competent to adjudicate criminal cases in which prescribed punishment is more than five years of imprisonment while the municipal court handles criminal cases in which prescribed punishment is up to five years, as well as all the civil cases.. The minor offences court is competent to adjudicate criminal cases which prescribe punishment of up to two months of imprisonment. Each court has its own president who presides over the court's administration.

• Security presence

There are 202 Kosovo police officers working in the main town station, and two substations of Goraždevac/Gorazhdevc and Vitimirica/Vitomiricë. The police station was handed over from UNMIK Police and formally put under Kosovo police control on 27 May 2005. KFOR provides security for the region, commanded by the Italian contingent of Multi-National Task Force West.

3. Political overview

AAK is the leading political power in the municipality after the last municipal elections held in November 2007. As AAK won only 22.9 percent of votes, a coalition with more than one party was unavoidable. AAK was followed by LDK (16.5%), LDD (15.4%), PDK (13.7%), ORA (11.5%), AKR (9.2%), while other parties won 10.7 percent of votes combined. Based on these results the coalition was established between AAK, LDK, LDD, AKR, SDA, and IRDK, while PDK, ORA and GIRN remained in opposition. The mayor has recently appointed as his deputy the ORA branch leader in Pejë/Peć.

4. Economy

Agriculture and unemployment are the two main features of the local economy. It may be noted in particular that in Pejë/Peć town, a series of private initiatives in the craft and small industry sector are developing. The construction sector (apartment buildings along with the real estate business) and the banking business are expanding. According to the director of the municipal department for economic development, as of September 2008 there are 25,287 people registered as unemployed.

5. Public services

• Health

A family health centre has been established in Pejë/Peć town and it includes public health, dentistry, emergency, diagnostic and consultative sections. In addition, five family medical centers operate in town, and additional five in surrounding villages. There are also 13 additional health clinics (*ambulantas*) covering smaller villages. Non-Albanian communities have access to the clinics and hospitals, and Serbian language is used to communicate whenever necessary. Kosovo Serb community mainly uses one local health clinic in Goraždevac/Gorazhdevc and treats more serious cases in northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica.

[Source: Municipal directorate of health]

• Education

There are 27 primary and 16 satellite schools and subclasses providing education to nearly 23,820 pupils from all communities living in Pejë/Peć. Secondary education is provided by six high schools and one gymnasium. There is also a school for visually impaired students, and a primary and secondary music school that opened in February 2008. At the higher education level there is a branch of the Business Faculty of University in Prishtinë/Priština and the private University of European Vision. While Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians attend classes in Albanian language, 774 Kosovo Bosniaks are receiving education in Bosnian language. The Kosovo Serb community has two primary and one secondary school in Goraždevac/Gorazhdevc that follow the Serbian curriculum and cater to approximately 130 pupils.

[Source: Municipal directorate of education]

6. Map of the region

