

Podujevë/Podujevo

April 2008

1. Area and Population

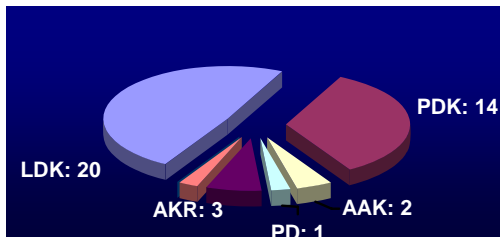
- Podujevë/Podujevo Municipality is located north of Prishtinë/Priština covering an area of 663 km². The municipality consists of 78 villages and the town of Podujevë/Podujevo. The municipality faces problems with the electricity and water supply.
- The estimated total population is 130,000. The vast majority are Kosovo Albanians (99 %), while minority communities include Roma and Ashkali (around 720) living mostly in the Podujevë/Podujevo town and the surrounding areas. There are 10 Kosovo Serbs living near the border with Serbia proper. According to UNHCR, there are currently 3,691 persons displaced from Podujevë/Podujevo municipality living in Serbia proper or Montenegro, and 64 in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. To date, most Roma and Ashkali displaced people have returned to the municipality. [Source: Ashkali Representative]

2. Governing Structures

• Legislative

Following the November 2007 Municipal Elections, the newly elected Municipal Assembly has neither Kosovo Serb nor Roma or Ashkali members. Consequently, the Roma and Ashkali representatives filed an official request to the Mayor to include their representative in the Municipal Assembly, based on UNMIK Regulation No. 2007/30. To date the Mayor's answer is still pending.

The Assembly comprises 41 members elected following the November 2007 Municipal Elections. The Municipal Assembly President is Mr. Ilaz Pireva of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). One Municipal Assembly Member resigned due to his appointment as the Director of Health and Social Policy. The Municipal Assembly Member replacement procedure is under review.



LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
AKR - Alliance for the New Kosovo
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
PD - Justice Party
ORA - Reformist Party

• Executive

On March 15, LDK (20 Municipal Assembly members) officially formed a coalition with AAK (2 Municipal Assembly members) and informally with PD (1 Municipal Assembly member). This coalition, composed by 23 Municipal Assembly members, gives LDK a stable municipal leadership. As part of the coalition agreement, AAK got the Directorate of Urban Planning, Cadastre and Environmental Protection, while PD attained a seat in the Policy and Finance Committee.

On March 18, Podujevë/Podujevo Municipal Assembly elected the former Deputy Municipal Assembly President, Hazir Raqi from LDK, as the Vice Chairperson. In consultation with the Municipal Assembly, the Mayor appointed four Directors of Departments. The Municipal Assembly also appointed the Acting Head of Administration and Personnel and the members of the two out of three standing committees (Policy and Finance Committee; Communities Committee). In addition, Municipal Assembly set up a commission that will work on amendments of the Municipal Statute.

Moreover, the leader of the Kosovo Serb village Sekiraće/Sekiraqë is a member of the Communities Committee, while Municipal Assembly on March 18 decided to not establish the Mediation Committee, awaiting a new law from Kosovo Assembly. The membership of the Municipal Community Security Council was not reconfirmed yet.

• Judiciary

Podujevë/Podujevo municipality has a Municipal Court and Minor Offences Court with Kosovo Albanian judges.

• Security Presence

There are 116 Kosovo Police Service officers (113 Kosovo Albanians and three from Ashkali community), as well as two UNMIK Police officers. As for the international military presence, the Czech and Slovak

troops are in charge of the area. Security is mainly the responsibility of the Kosovo Police Service with the close cooperation of KFOR. There have been no major interethnic incidents reported in the last three years.

3. Political Overview

The LDK formed an alliance with the AAK and PD on many policy issues. LDK is the major political power in the Municipal Assembly. PDK is the main opposition party. The Kosovo Serbs living in Sekiraće/Sekiraqë village have no political role in the municipality but actively participate in the municipal affairs.

4. Economy

In 2005, the two largest factories in the municipality, working on brick and metal, were privatized. Nevertheless, unemployment has been a major problem in the local economy. The infrastructure of Podujevë/Podujevo is derelict due to past neglect and destruction during the war, and there are significant problems with economic development. Given the excessively high number of municipal staff (approximately 252) and the low overall budget, it can be expected that the Podujevë/Podujevo municipality will not be able to contribute positively to investments and overall economic development.

5. Public Services

• Health

The town has a main centre of family medicine with 258 doctors and nurses. It includes emergency, dental and maternity clinics in addition to general services. 20 health centres provide primary health care services outside the main town. Kosovo Serbs receive medical care either in the centre of family medicine in Orllan/Orlane or from the Czech KFOR. [Source: Directorate of Health and Social Policy, Czech KFOR, OSCE Municipal Team]

• Education

The municipality has 32 primary schools including a special school for children with disabilities. In addition, there are three secondary schools: gymnasium, technical and economic, and one preparatory school (kindergarten). The total number of faculty staff is 1,384 and the estimated number of students is 23,500. [Source: Director of the Directorate of Education]

6. Map of the Region

Podujevë / Podujevo

