

Istog/Istok

April 2008

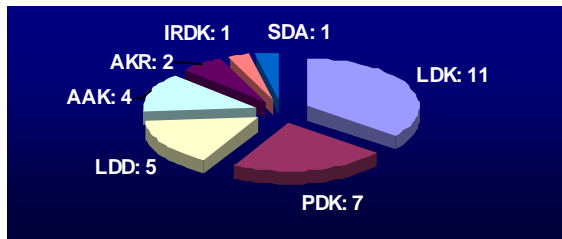
1. Area and Population

- Istog/Istok municipality lies along the northern stretches of the Dukagjini valley separated from Montenegro by mountains rising over 2,000 metres. The main road from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica to Pejë/Peć passes through the municipality and several routes connect it to the municipalities of Klinë/Klina and Skenderaj/Srbica.
- The municipality includes the town of Istog/Istok and 51 villages that are grouped in 10 local communities. Currently, the population is estimated at 56,000 inhabitants, of which the vast majority is Kosovo Albanian, while there are more than 1,650 Bosniaks, 40 Roma and about 2,220 Egyptians. There are approximately 800 Kosovo Serbs living in the mixed village of Crkolez/Cërkolez, Osojan/Osojane, and Suvi Lukavac/Llukafci i Thatë, as well as in several other villages.

2. Governing Structures

• Legislative

The total number of Municipal Assembly seats is 31. The breakdown of party affiliation and seat allocation 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 – Alliance for New Kosovo
IRDK - New Initiative for Democracy in Kosovo
SDA – Party for Democratic Action

• Executive

The Municipal Assembly of Istog/Istok established the structure of the Municipal Government on 31 January 2008. The Assembly established eight departments and the Mayor, in consultation with the Assembly, appointed the respective Directors. In addition to the mandatory Departments foreseen by the law, the Assembly established also the Public Services, Rescue and Emergency Department; the Inspectorate Department and the Agriculture and Forestry Department. There are 917 civil servants.

• Judiciary

Since 20 January 2000, a Municipal Court has been functioning with four Kosovo Albanian judges and a Minor Offences Court with three Kosovo Albanian judges. There is no Prosecutor's office in the municipality. The Municipal Prosecutor's Office in Pejë/Peć is responsible for Istog/Istok. The Court Liaison Office in Osojane/Osojan was established in July 2006. The total number of the employees working in the Municipal Court is 27.

• Security Presence

The level of crime in the municipality is low compared to the situation in other municipalities. The police station in Istog/Istok was transferred from UNMIK to the Kosovo Police Service control in February 2005.

3. Political Overview

In the last Municipal Elections in November 2007, LDK lost its long-lasting absolute majority, particularly because of LDD secession, though keeping on being the relative majority party. The results were: LDK 35,18% (11 Seats), PDK 21,75% (7 seats), LDD 17,51% (5 seats), AAK 11,64% (4 seats), AKR 6,35% (2 seats), IRDK 1,89% (1 seat), SDA 1,7% (1 seat). The number of municipal seats remained at 31 while LDK succeeded in having Mr. Fadil Ferati directly elected as Municipal Mayor in the second round of mayoral elections.

4. Economy

The municipality is mainly agricultural, with 80% of its inhabitants having worked in the agricultural sector before the 1999 conflict. The municipality's agricultural products include cereals, fruits, vegetables and meat products. Istog/Istok is also well known for a trout fish farm which was privatized in 2004 and is a successful example of the privatization process. Unemployment remains high even though 1082 businesses, such as shops, coffee bars and restaurants are registered with the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Despite these figures, Public Administration remains the main employer.

