

## Shtime/Štimlje

April 2008

### 1. Area and Population

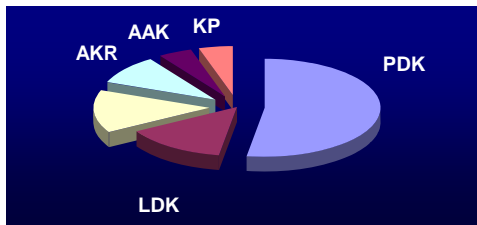
- Shtime/Štimlje is a rural municipality in the south-central part of the Kosovo plain, 30 km southwest of Prishtinë/Priština. The municipality consists of the town of Shtime/Štimlje and 22 villages. The main road from Prishtinë/Priština to Prizren passes through Shtime/Štimlje town. Although considerable investments have been made to improve roads and the water supply system during last eight years, road infrastructure remains unsatisfactory. An improvement has been noticed by the end of the 2007 with the water supply system when all villages were connected to the water supply network.

- The estimated total population is 29,000. The vast majority is Kosovo Albanian with small numbers from minority communities, namely 809 Ashkali and 11 Roma. After the March 2004 riots, the 14 remaining Kosovo Serbs left and currently there are no Kosovo Serbs living in the municipality. The municipality has been promoting their return, yet no success has been registered so far. Meanwhile, eight Ashkali families (43 persons) have returned with the international assistance. [Source: OSCE RC Prishtinë/Priština – Municipal Team Shtime/Štimlje]

### 2. Governing Structures

#### ● Legislative

The Municipal Assembly comprises 21 members elected after the November 2007 Municipal Elections with absolute majority of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) and with the Mayor from the same party.



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo, 11 seats
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo, 3 seats
LDD - Democratic League of Dardania, 3 seats
AKR - New Kosovo Alliance, 2 seats
AAK - Alliance for Future of Kosovo, 1 seat
KP - Independent Candidate, 1 Seat

#### ● Executive

The Board of Directors is composed of a Mayor and six Directors. 3.5 percent of the municipal employees are from the minority communities.

The Mayor of Shtime/Štimlje is Mr. Naim Ismajli from the Democratic Party of Kosovo ranks.

#### ● Judiciary

There is no Municipal Court established in Shtime/Štimlje. All cases are referred to and dealt with by the Ferizaj/Uroševac courts. The municipality has repeatedly demanded for the establishment of its own court system.

#### ● Security Presence

The Kosovo Police Service took over the responsibilities from the UNMIK Police in Spring 2002, and Irish KFOR has been covering the area since January 2005.

### 3. Political Overview

Shtime/Štimlje is a stronghold of the Democratic Party of Kosovo. After the split up of the Democratic League of Kosovo the main opposition was weakened. The 2007 Municipal Elections brought no surprise regarding the Democratic Party of Kosovo. Out of twenty one (21) Municipal Members, eleven (11) belong to the Democratic Party of Kosovo, three (3) to the Democratic League of Kosovo, three (3) to the Democratic League of Dardania, two (2) to the New Kosovo Alliance, one (1) to the Alliance for Future of Kosovo and one (1) to the independent candidate.

### 4. Economy

The local economy is largely based on agriculture. There are two agricultural co-operatives in the Shtime/Štimlje town and one in the village of Muzeqinë/Mužičane, but old equipment and the lack of investment have been hampering further development of the sector. In addition, 482 businesses are registered in the municipality with 1,149 employees. The municipality has established an office to support the private businesses, yet the municipality remains the largest employer. In June 2007, the “Technologic Park” was inaugurated – an industrial zone funded by the Slovenian Government. 25 industrial buildings are to be

constructed and more than 400 people are anticipated to be employed. [Source: OSCE Regional Centre Prishtinë/Priština – Municipal Team Shtime/Štimlje]

## 5. Public Services

### • Health

The Health House is the major medical institution in the municipality. Additionally, three "ambulantas" and eight private clinics provide medical services. The Shtime/Štimlje municipality hosts the only mental institute in Kosovo, which is run by the municipal Department of Social Services, with 171 staff of mostly Kosovo Albanian background. Currently, the mental institute is home to 199 patients, including nine children from various ethnic groups. [Source: OSCE Regional Centre Prishtinë/Priština – Municipal Team Shtime/Štimlje]

### • Education

The municipality has eight primary schools and one secondary school. Most schools have been renovated after the 1999 conflict, but the shortage of qualified teachers, especially for secondary school science and mathematics, is a major problem. In Shtime/Štimlje, pupils from Roma and Ashkali communities attend schools together with the Kosovo Albanians. [Source: OSCE Regional Centre Prishtinë/Priština – Municipal Team Shtime/Štimlje]

## 6. Map of the Region

### Shtime / Štimlje

