

Prizren
September 2009

1. Area and population

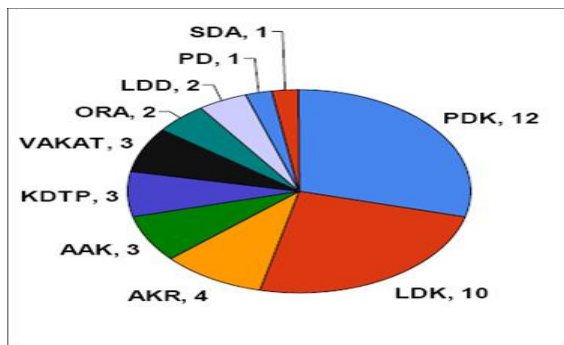
Prizren municipality is located in southern Kosovo. Prizren town plays an important role in regional business and commerce due to its geographical proximity to Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM). Approximately 240,000 people live in the Prizren municipality, in the town and 74 villages. In addition to Kosovo Albanian majority it is also home to large communities of Kosovo Bosniaks (21,975), Kosovo Turks (9,038), and Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (5,322). A relatively small number of Kosovo Serbs (160) live in the villages and Prizren town. (Source: Prizren Municipal Community Office, July 2009).

Prizren is known for its ethnic diversity and enjoys a long tradition of tolerance and inter-ethnic co-operation. It is considered as the most culturally and ethnically heterogeneous municipality in Kosovo. The threat of ethnically motivated violence still exists, but contrary to other parts of Kosovo, the Serbian/Bosnian language is spoken freely in Prizren town and in the areas where Kosovo Serbs reside.

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The municipal assembly, elected on 17 November 2007, has 41 members. In September 2008 the municipal assembly elected Mr. Nijazi Kryeziu (PDK) as its chairperson and Mr. Ćemailj Kurtiši (VAKAT) as its deputy chairperson for communities. The ruling coalition includes PDK, the AKR, KDTP and VAKAT. Following the recent resignation of two municipal assembly members, and one becoming an independent assembly member, the AKR is represented with only one seat in the assembly, which brings its position in the ruling coalition into question. Below pie chart shows the initial composition at the municipal assembly, based on the results of the 2007 municipal elections.



PDK-	Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDK-	Democratic League of Kosovo
AKR-	Alliance New Kosovo
AAK-	Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
KDTP-	Turkish Democratic Party of Kosovo
VAKAT	Coalition
ORA-	Reformist Party
LDD-	Democratic League of Dardania
PD-	Justice Party
SDA-	Party of Democratic Action

Due to some of the assembly members changing their party alliances and PD's member become independent member, the current municipal assembly includes nine political parties and four independent members with following seats allocation: PDK, 13; LDK, ten; KDTP and VAKAT Coalition, three each; AAK, ORA and LDD, two each; AKR and SDA, one each; and four independent members (former PDK, PD, AKR and AAK).

• Executive

The mayor is Mr. Ramadan Muja, and deputy mayor is Mr. Minir Krasniqi; both PDK. Mr. Ercan Şpat (KDTP) is deputy mayor for communities. There are ten municipal directors two of which are female and one is Kosovo Turk. The municipal communities office is also functional and is headed by a Kosovo Bosniak.

• Judiciary

Prizren municipality has district, municipal and minor offences courts, all located in town. The district and the municipal prosecutors also have their offices in town. The EULEX Justice office is located in the municipal/district court building. In terms of staffing there are thirteen municipal court judges, nine district court judges, ten minor offences court judges along with nine municipal prosecutors (covering all the municipal courts in the region, not just Prizren municipality) and seven district prosecutors. Currently, there are three EULEX judges (2 dealing with civil and 1 dealing with criminal cases) and two prosecutors.

• Security Presence

The Prizren police station has been transferred from UNMIK to Kosovo police command in 2004. It is one of the largest police facilities in Kosovo with 221 officers from all but Kosovo Serb community. Mamuşa/Mamushë/Mamuşa municipality is also part of Prizren police station's area of responsibility. There are two substations in Zhur/Žur and Sredskë/Sredska villages, while Community Police

Officers keep their presence in Mushnikovë/Mušnikovo and Mamuša/Mamushë/Mamuša villages. Three EULEX police advisers assist Prizren police station and additional three work at the Kosovo - Albanian boarder control station 'Vërmica/Morina'.

3. Political overview

The political scene in Prizren municipality is rich and diverse. Besides, the parties in the municipal assembly, several other have their brunch offices in the municipality. Those include: Albanian Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo (PSHDK), Democratic Ashkali Party of Kosovo (PDAK), Democratic Alternative of Kosovo (ADK), Liberal Party of Kosovo (PLK), National Front (BK), National Movement for Liberation of Kosovo (LKÇK), New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo (IRDK), Christian Democratic Party for Integration (PDKI), Social Democratic Party of Kosovo (PSDK), United Roma Party of Kosovo (PREBK), New Democratic Party (NDS) and Kosovo Ecological Party (PEK).

4. Economy

The economy of the municipality is based on agriculture, trade, construction and food processing - all private enterprises. There are three agricultural co-operatives in three villages; most livestock breeding and agricultural production is private, informal, and small-scale. Due to financial difficulties, several companies and factories have closed and others have reduced numbers of personnel further contributing to already existing unemployment and poverty. Prizren municipal directorate of urbanism and spatial planning has recently developed an urban regulatory plan for a 'Business Park' and the 'New Centre'(80,4 hectares) which will be used for residential, recreational, and commercial purposes. In addition, the European Commission's Regional Development Project for "Region South", initially worth 500,000 Euros. Both these developments should help with the economic development.

5. Public services

• Health

The primary health care system currently includes 11 family medicine centres and 22 health facilities (*ambulanta*) throughout Prizren municipality and employs 375 persons (out of which 125 are doctors). The only regional hospital in Prizren offers medical services to approximately 400,000 residents. The hospital employs 778 workers including 155 doctors and is equipped with emergency and intensive care units, and donated ambulances. There are also 32 private health houses and laboratories, 22 dental health houses and 19 pharmacies. All Kosovo communities have equal access to health care and all health facilities managed by the municipality have signs in the three official languages (Albanian, Serbian/Bosnian and Turkish). In addition, Kosovo Serb also have access to the parallel structures in Mushnikovë/Mušnikovo village. In case of complicated sicknesses/diseases, Kosovo Serbs travel to Štrpce/Shtërpçë or Mitrovica/Mitrovicë for treatment.

• Education

The Municipality has 46 primary and six secondary schools. There are also two special schools, one for hearing impaired and one for mentally challenged children. More than 40,000 pupils attending primary and secondary education, with an increased number of students registering at the secondary schools in town comparing to the previous years; this is mainly due to lower quality of education provided in the rural areas. Due to insufficient school facilities, schools in Prizren town operate in three shifts and in two shifts in the villages. On average, 50 pupils attend each class, where there should be only 30-32 per classroom. Schools provide education in Albanian, Bosnian and Turkish languages through the same curricula. However, lack of teaching materials in Bosnian and Turkish languages results in de-facto learning through different curricula which affects the success of the pupils belonging to those communities in the Kosovo-wide exams. There are no Kosovo Serb pupils in the municipality. Prishtinë/Priština University has two branches in Prizren: Faculty of Education and Faculty Information Technologies which offer lectures in Albanian, Bosnian and Turkish languages.

6. Map of the Region

