

Municipality of Junik

March 2009

1. Area and population

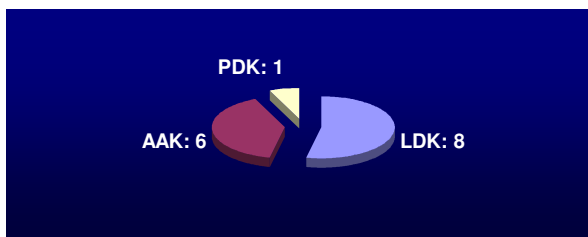
The municipality of Junik is located in the south-western part of Kosovo between Deçan/Deçane and Gjakovë/Đakovica municipalities. From 1945 to 1962 Junik was a large municipality with ample natural resources such as forest and timber, and a potential for tourism development - Junik has the highest mountain peak in Kosovo. In 1962 the municipality was dissolved and its territory divided between Deçan/Deçane and Gjakovë/Đakovica municipalities. In July 2005, Junik was re-established but this time as a Pilot Municipal Unit within Deçan/Deçane municipality, based on the "Framework for Reform of Local Self Government" and UNMIK Administrative Direction 2005/11 and Administrative Instruction 2006/2. It regained the status of a municipality in October 2008 but with a smaller territory than in 1962 as three villages: Vosh/Vokš, Sllup/Slup, and Rastavicë/Rastavica were transferred to the municipality of Deçan/Deçane. Junik is now composed of two cadastral zones, the town of Junik and the villages of Jasiq/Jasić and Gjocaj/Đocaj which were heavily destroyed during the 1999 conflict and are mostly uninhabited. The total surface of the municipality is 77.76 km². Roughly 44 percent of its territory is covered by forests while about 56 percent is used for agriculture. It is estimated that Junik has 9,600 inhabitants mainly residing in Junik town. Currently the entire population is Kosovo Albanian while before the 1999 conflict, the population had a more multiethnic composition with some 700 Kosovo Serbs living there.

2. Governing structures

After three years of performing as a Pilot Municipal Unit, Junik was upgraded to a full fledged-municipality in 2008. In October 2008 the former president of Junik municipality assumed the functions of the mayor and was relieved of his former duties as chairperson of the municipal assembly. Subsequently, the municipal assembly elected a member from the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) as its chairperson.

• Legislative

The composition of the municipal assembly is based on the results of the 2002 municipal elections for Deçan/Deçane municipality. Its 15 seats were allocated as represented in the chart below. The municipal assembly held its first session on 26 September 2005 when it also elected the provisional municipal assembly president and deputy president. In the newly established municipality of Junik the number of the municipal assembly members remains the same (15), until the next local elections, although three members have been replaced in October 2008 following the executive appointments including the mayor and his deputy.



LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo

• Executive

The municipal civil service comprises 19 staff members and includes five sectors: general administration; economy, budget and finance; education, youth and sports; healthcare and public welfare. The restructuring process of the local government, following the plan for 2009, includes the enlargement of the existing municipal departments, the establishment of new departments and offices and an increase in human resources. The department of public services will be the first to be established together with an office for emergency and preparedness.

• Judiciary

There are no courts in Junik municipality. Deçan/Deçane municipal court deals with civil and criminal cases, while Deçan/Deçane minor offences court deals with traffic violations and illegal woodcutting.

• Security presence

The Kosovo police substation in Junik is linked to the police station in Deçan/Deçane. There is no permanent presence of KFOR or Kosovo security forces in the municipality. There are however regular contacts between the municipality and the Italian KFOR liaison monitoring team based in Deçan/Deçane. The Kosovo security force is involved in de-mining activities in the two villages of Jasiq/Jasić and Gjocaj/Đocaj.

3. Political overview

The municipal assembly is dominated by LDK. Following the November 2007 municipal elections for Deçan/Deçane municipality, the AAK, that has six out of fifteen seats in the municipal assembly, claimed it had the right to a stronger representation in the municipal institutions. According to AAK, results of the 2007 municipal elections for Deçan/Deçane show that the majority of Junik inhabitants voted for the AAK and not to for the LDK. Since then, the party boycotts the municipal assembly and all the other meetings of the municipality as long as the current composition is maintained. This situation is likely to remain until the next local elections are held.

4. Economy

The economy of Junik is mainly based on agriculture. The vast majority of inhabitants are in some way involved in agricultural activities. As in the rest of Kosovo, unemployment is a problem. However, after the 1999 conflict, there was an increase in registrations of private businesses; currently 63 are registered. The municipal administration is the largest single employer in the municipality.

5. Public services

The municipality has an operational civil registry office and it has assumed full responsibility over healthcare and education. The municipality is looking for ways to establish a garbage collection company and a fire brigade. Services such as drinking water supply and irrigation are currently delivered by regional companies. Water supply in Junik is regular and sufficient, although the pressure of the tap water is sometimes low. Works to improve the sewage, irrigation, water-supply and electrical systems in Junik are on-going. The municipality allocated Euro 171,475 for capital investments in 2009.

- **Health**

There is one main family health centre which has improved its services in the last years as opening hours were extended and the number of staff increased to 22. The centre is, however, closed at night due to lack of staff. Dentist services have improved after material investments, but the lack of space in the centre still challenges the normal functioning of the laboratory used for blood-intake and analysis. Lack of resources has prevented the centre to issue health cards to the patients, as well as to provide the same vaccinations that are available at the health centre in Deçan/Deçane.

- **Education**

There is one primary and one secondary school in Junik town. The Kosovo ministry of education, science and technology has provided funds for a new secondary school building that is currently being constructed and will provide better learning conditions for the students. The municipality employs 79 staff members in the schools in Junik catering to 1,380 students. The financial and administrative responsibility for the primary school “Rexhep Kadrijaj” in Rastavicë/Rastavica village still lies with Junik municipality until the budget for the school gets transferred to Deçan/Deçane municipality. The handover to Deçan/Deçane municipality is expected to occur in 2009.

6. Map of the Region

