



MUNICIPAL PROFILE

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

June 2006

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1. Introduction: Area and Population

The municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje is located approximately 8 kilometres south-west of Prishtinë/Priština city. The demographics of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje town have changed significantly over the past decade. Kosovo Serbs constituted 25% of the population before the 1999 conflict and a number of the villages were a mix of Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians. The latest statistics suggest this figure has dropped to 8% overall. All the villages of the municipality include Kosovo Albanians and other minorities, including Kosovo Serbs, though Kosovo Albanians constitute 85% of the total population in the municipality. In addition, approximately 500 Ashkali and Egyptian families, or 2,500 individuals, currently reside in the Municipality.

The municipality consists of 18 villages, out of which 3 (Uglar/Ugljare, Kuzmin and Batuse/Batushë) are inhabited by Kosovo-Serbs. Bresje and Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje town are mixed populated areas.

The relation between the Kosovo Serb community and Kosovo Albanian community has suffered heavily due to the March 2004 riots. Serbs from Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje town due to the security situation and damages made to their property were forced to seek a shelter in surrounding villages mostly populated by Serb community (like Uglar/Ugljare, Bresje, and Gračanica/Graçanicë).

Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs

Population	Kosovo Albanian		Kosovo Serbs		Ashkali		Roma		Other Total		Approx.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
1991 census	17,374	53.4	8,346	25.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,500
1998	23,600	59	9,600	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000
June 2000	34,000	84	4,000	10	2,600	6.4	300	0.7	60	0.14	40,500
April 2002	34,000	85	3,239	8	2,259	5.6	388	1	21	<0.5	40,000

Source: UN Municipal Community Office. Accurate figures for the April 2002, but previous year's statistics are estimate only, due to lack of insufficient data. It is noted that the 1991 census was highly politicised and is thus unreliable.

2. Civil Administration

The process of establishing a new Municipal Assembly (MA) and related structures began after the last Municipal Elections of 26 October 2002. Mr. Skënder Zogaj (LDK) was elected MA President and Mr. Sabit Hykolli (LDK) as Deputy President. On 24 January 2005, Mr. Qerim Gara (PDAK, Ashkali community) was appointed Additional Deputy President of the municipality. He succeeded in this position to Mr. Milan Djekić (KP, Kosovo-Serb).

Table 2.1: Composition of the Municipal Assembly

Name of Municipal Assembly Member / Professional Background	Political Affiliation
Mr. Skender Zogaj	LDK / President
Mr. Sabit Hykolli	LDK / Deputy-President
Mr. Milan Djekic / 2002-2004	KP / Additional Deputy President
Mr. Qerim Gara / 2004-2006	PDAK / Additional Deputy President
Mr. Sabri Rexhepi	LDK
Ms. Mirishahe Dervisholli	LDK
Mr. Enver Termkolli	LDK
Ms. Diturie Zogjani	LDK
Mr. Ibush Kelmendi	LDK Group leader
Mr. Sylejman Zogjani	LDK
Ms. Arjeta Shala	LDK
Mr. Jakup Ternava	LDK
Mr. Sabit Bullatovci	LDK
Ms. Vjollca Maxhera	LDK
Mr. Naser Grajqevci	PDK
Mr. Adem Zogjani	PDK Group leader
Mr. Sanije Hertica	PDK
Mr. Zijadin Bajcinca	PDK
Mr. Ibrahim Berisha	PDK
Mr. Ahmet Krasniqi	IQFK
Mr. Shaban Ademi	AAK

Source: UN Civil Administration

The Policy and Finance, Communities, and Mediation committees have been established and their members selected. The PFC meets on a regular basis. Communities Committee after a log delay has started to function in July 2005 after the K-Serb representatives decided to take their seats in the Committee.

In September 2004, the OSCE began implementation of an extensive training program for the Municipality's Policy and Finance Committee members on participatory budget and public financial management. The aim of the project being to develop the capacities of Policy and Finance Committee members to develop and execute the 2005 municipal budget in an effective, transparent, accountable and participatory manner. A brochure detailing the 2005 budget is printed and is available through the municipality's information officer.

The main challenges confronting Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje include the improvement of a system for the collection of revenues, such as property tax, municipal fees and charges; health and social services; urban development; education; and the integration of the Kosovo Serb population into the municipal structures.

Table 2.2: Municipal Assembly Committees

Committee	Chairperson / Affiliation	Vice-chairperson / Affiliation
Policy and Finance Committee	Skender Zogaj (LDK)	Not applicable
Communities Committee	Milan Djekic	Enver Ibrahim
Mediation Committee	Jakup Tërnavë	Not applicable
Gender Balance	Mirishahe Dërvisholli	Not applicable
Emergency Preparedness	Skender Zogaj	
Reconstruction	Sabit Hykolli	Not applicable

Source: UN Civil Administration

Table 2.3: Chief Executive Officer, Board of Directors and Municipal Departments

Director / Professional Background / Affiliation (if any)	Municipal Department (Incl. Community Office, if any)
Chief Executive Officer – Burim Berisha (LDK)	Executive Office
Director – Bajram Zogjani	Department of General Administration
Director – Jakup Dumani	Department of Economic Development
Director – Abdullah Prebreza	Department of Urbanism and Geodesy
Director – Shaqir Basholli	Department of Public Utilities and Environment
Director – Fadil Krasniqi	Department of Finance
Director – Maliq Berisha	Department of Education and Science
Director – Nurie Avdiu	Department of Culture, Youth and Sport
Director – Shaip Quqalla	Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Director – Branislav Ristic	Department of Health and Social Welfare
Director – Ismet Maliqi	Department of Civil Security and Emergencies
Head – Sladjana Lazic	Municipal Community Office
Director – Vacant	Department of Inspections

Source: UN Civil Administration

3. Political Parties

Table 3.1: Political Parties

Party	Municipal branch leader	Kosovo-wide leader	2000 Vote	Seats in MA	2002 Vote	Seats in MA
Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK)	Gani Prekopuca	vacant	54%	13	50.5%	12
Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK)	Ahmet Krasniqi	Hashim Thaçi	17%	4	23.3%	5
Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK)	Shaban Ademi	Ramush Haradinaj	11%	3	4.8%	1
Democratic Party Ashkali in Kosovo (PDAK)	Qerim Gara	Sabit Rrahmani	3.7%	1	2%	0
Democratic Party of Albanian Ashkali Party of Kosovo (PDASHK)	Bajram Marolli	-	-	-	3.8%	1
Coalition Return (KP)	Milan Djekic	-	-	-	6%	1
Liberal Party of Kosovo (PLK)	-	Gjergj Dedaj	1.5%	-	0.7%	0
Republican Party of Kosovo (PRK)	-	Feti Grapci	0.7%	-	-	-
Social Democratic Party of Kosovo (PSDK)	-	Kaqusha Jashari	1.3%	-	0.3%	0
Citizens Initiative of Fushë Kosovë (IQFK)	Ahmet Krasniqi	-	-	-	5.6%	1
Kosovo Objective Party (KOS)	Mica Stevic	-	-	-	0.5%	0

Source: OSCE

4. Local and International NGOs

There are several local Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) operating within the municipality. The Mother Theresa Society and the Kosovo Red Cross are regarded as Kosovo Albanian affiliated, while the Yugoslav Red Cross largely focuses on humanitarian aid for the Kosovo Serb and other minority communities. With regard to human rights there are 12 Kosovo Albanian and 5 Kosovo Serb NGOs present. The remaining NGOs focus on disabilities, the elderly, women's issues, and minority rights.

In the last couple of years, the number of international NGOs has dramatically decreased, and as a consequence most of the project work carried out in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje is co-ordinated from offices based in Prishtinë/Priština. A number of the international NGOs are still providing much needed humanitarian and medical aid, others are working toward building the knowledge base and raising awareness of the local communities on a variety of issues. For example, Doctors of the World co-ordinated with the OSCE to contact the Ashkali and Roma citizens in the municipality and provided a programme of sessions on reproductive health education, held in the OSCE Community Centre.

Table 4.1: Local NGOs active in the Municipality

Name	Main focus	Contact Person (phone / fax / e-mail)
SM Red Cross	Humanitarian aid	Jovica Mitrovic
Mother Teresa Society	Humanitarian aid	
Kosovo Red Cross	Humanitarian aid	Ibrahim Ahmeti
Council for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedoms	Human rights	Hysen Merovci
Hand to Hand	Human rights	Novenka Rikalo
Association for Culture and Information	Multi-ethnic radio station	Naim Breznica
Handikos	Disability	Agim Jashari
Association of Invalids	Disabilities	Muhamet Shala
Association of Pensioners	The elderly	Ragip Drenovci
Centre for Investigation and Public Opinion	Free speech	Bajram Shala
Future for All	Ashkali rights	Mufail Mustafa
Povrtatak	Returns	Pera Savic
The Youth of Kosovo	Youth	Dejan Jovanovic
Painting School	Arts	Zoran Zivkovic

Table 4.2: International NGOs working in the Municipality

Name	Main focus	Contact Person (phone / fax / e-mail)	Headquarters (phone / fax/ e-mail)
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Humanitarian	Deborah Conner Tel: 038 549 033	Prishtinë/Priština

5. Other Civilian International Presence

The UN Civil Administration is located in the old municipality building, as is the UNMIK Municipal Community Office, focusing on issues and concerns of the minority communities. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the European Union (EU) no longer have field offices or staff based in the municipality, but co-ordinate their work from offices in Prishtinë/Priština.

Table 5.1: The Pillars

Name	Number of Staff (nat.+int.)	Contact Person	Title	Phone / Fax / E-mail
UN Civil Adm.	12	June Ward	UN Civil Administrator	038 68 790
OSCE	4 (1 int. + 3 National)	Ruth Asens – Molar	Democratization Officer	038 500 162 ext. 537

6. Religion, Places of Worship, and Cultural Institutions

The main religious bodies in the municipality are Orthodox and Muslim. Kosovo Serbs are Christian Orthodox, while the majority of Kosovo Albanians are Muslim. There are 3 Orthodox churches and 11 mosques. During the violent March riots a Serbian Orthodox church located in a Obiliq/Obilić town was burned. There is also a Culture House in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje town in which a library and cinema are located, but except library that is still operational nothing else works.

Table 6.1: Primary Mosques, Churches, etc.

Type of Building	Towns/Places
St Nicolas Church	Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje town
St Ekatarina Church	Bresje village
St Nedelja Church	Batuse village
Mosques (eleven)	Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Bardh i Madh, Bardh i Vogël, Sllatinë e Madhe, Harilaq, Vragoli, Miradi e Ulët, Miradi e Epërme, Lismir

7. Media

There are no local print media outlets in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and only one local radio station operates in the municipality at present. 'Radio K' is a multiethnic radio, broadcasting in both Albanian and Serbian, as well as carrying programmes in the Roma languages. As both Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb businesses are reluctant in advertising in multiethnic stations, 'Radio K' faces serious difficulties generating sufficient income and has been supported by various donors from the outset. OSCE's financial support faded out mid of 2005 after one year.

Table 7.1: List of Major Newspaper, TV/Radio Stations, etc.

Name of media	Type of Media (newspaper, radio)	Editor/Correspondent (or other)	Language of Programmes
Radio K	Radio	Naim Breznica	Multi-lingual

Source: OSCE Regional Center Prishtinë/Priština

8. Judicial System

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje does not have its own court facilities and proceedings and falls under the jurisdiction of the Prishtinë/Priština courts.

9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

The police station is located on the ground floor of the municipal building. Both the UNMIK police and KPS share the same space. There are 2 UNMIK Police and 62 KPS officers, of which five are Serbs, two Boniacs, and 55 Albanians.

The joint Irish/Finish contingent stationed in Lipjan/Lipljan is operating in the Municipality. Fortnightly meeting are held at the camp in Lipjan/Lipljan to discuss security related issues.

Table 9.1: Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

Establishment	Local Commander/Contact	PHONE/FAX/EMAIL	Number of Officers, Troops	Ethnic Composition**	Transition date	Gender Balance F/M
Kosovo Police Service	Vjollca Hoti	VSAT 4790 or 038 504604 ext. 4790	62	55 K/A, 5 K/S, 2 K/B,	15.04.2005	19 - 43
UNMIK Police	Doebler Lars Pazos Robert	VSAT 4790 or 038 504604 ext. 4790	2			
KFOR Fin/Irish BattleGroup		Liaison Officer +381 38 56 44 00 kosovo.lmt.rhq@ksbat.mil.se		Finnish, Portugese		

* This figure covers the municipalities of Prishtinë/Priština, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Lipjan/Lipljan, Glogovc/Glogovac and Shtimë/Štimlje

Source: UNMIK Regional KPS Command

10. Economy

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje municipality has a potentially strong economic base build on agriculture, as 60% of the municipal land is arable, comprising 3,670 hectares of forest, 522 hectares of freehold pastures, and 688 hectares of fruit orchards. There is a vast infrastructure of agro-processing industries that, although for the most part are largely defunct, may be revived with investment and management. These industries include a flourmill, bread factory, animal feed factory, dairy plant, and cattle farm with butchery.

The flourmill was the largest enterprise of its kind in the former Yugoslavia, with a capacity of 200 tonnes of flour per day. However, when KFOR moved to the municipality, the mill ran at only 50% capacity. Ideally located as a base for military operations, KFOR decided to occupy the factory and so it was forced to close. Norwegian KFOR left the mill in June 2002, however the factory still operates at a very low-level capacity.

There are, however, a number of thriving small shops, café bars, and businesses run by Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs in their respective areas. One of the most successful of these private enterprises is the milk factory, employing approximately 10-15 people, and producing 4,000 litres of milk per day with which to make yoghurt and cream.

While the capacity to exploit the potential industries remains untenable, the building blocks of job creation lie scattered, and unemployment remains high.

10.1 Prominent Employers in the municipality

Employer	Service/Products	Functioning	Size of Workforce
Municipality	Governance	Yes	Approx 175
Yumco textile factory	Textiles	No	Approx 100
Railway station	Rail service	Yes	

11. Infrastructure

Located on the main route from Prishtinë/Priština to Pejë/Peć, the road through the town is generally accessible year round and transport connections to the provincial capital are comparatively good, although Kosovo Serbs cannot use them due to freedom of movement issues. Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje also has its own railway station and lies on the main line between the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia border and Lešak in the Leposavić/Leposaviq area. Passenger trains run twice a day, seven days a week and the rail network also provides key transportation for goods. A train service to Gračanica/Gračanicë has been running on Fridays and Mondays since 12 June 2003.

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje receives its regular water supply from a small lake in Kuzmin. In comparison to other municipalities in Kosovo, such as those receiving water from Batllava/Batlava Lake, the water quality does not meet Western European standards, additionally, the population often experiences disruption to the supply, particularly in the summer months when demand increases.

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje experiences problems with the supply of electricity. Over the past 12 months, as frustration with KEK's provision of services increases and problems with bill payment continue, a growing number of municipal inhabitants (particularly in the village of Bresje), have made illegal connections to the electricity supply.

12. Social Services, Health, and Education

Social Services

The Centre for Social Welfare (CSW) in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje employs 11 individuals of whom one is Ashkali and one Kosovo-Serb. The CSW attends to approximately 600 to 650 cases from the minority communities.

Health

In spite of some attempts from the municipality to integrate the parallel Serb structures, health facilities in the municipality remain segregated. Some progress was made when recently a Serb doctor started working in the Centre for Family Health in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje. A hospital funded by Russia and the Bresje health house used to serve the Kosovo Serbs and Roma and Ashkali communities. However, since the facilities were destroyed during the March riots in 2004, the nearest Serb-run hospitals are now in Llaplasellë/Laplje Selo and in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. The health house has been reconstructed by the municipality and is in the process of getting staffed again. The municipality is striving to hire multi-ethnic staff and have the facility serve all communities. Since September 2002, Kosovo Albanians rely mainly on the health facility within the Centre for Family Health in the town, although there are also 10 basic health clinics/ambulantas in Kosovo Albanian villages. In the municipal health structures are currently working 21 minority employees¹. Two of them are Ashkali.

Education

Education institutions are also segregated. The official education system consists of one pre-primary school, six primary schools, and three secondary schools. Those schools are attended mainly by K-Albanian and Ashkali pupils. They offer classes in Albanian language only. The Serb-run parallel education system consists of one pre-primary school, three

¹ The employees of the Bresje health house are already included in that figure.

primary schools and a secondary medical school². Most Serbian-speaking pupils of primary school age attend school in the village of Uglar/Ugljare. Small primary schools branches exist also in the villages of Batushë/Batuše and Kuzmin.

The “Sveti Sava School” in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, which housed a primary and a secondary medical school for Kosovo Serbs and Roma students, was destroyed during the March 2004 violence. The facility has been reconstructed and according to an executive order from SRSG the school is supposed to serve now both communities. Both directors and the teachers of the Serb primary schools “Aca Marović” and “Vuk Karadžić” have moved into offices in the new reconstructed facility and a shift system has been set up to share the classrooms and teaching time for both, Serb and Albanian speaking classes³. However, there is still reluctance among K-Serb parents to let children attend classes there. According to the Municipal Department of Education the issue is still being discussed, the Department expressed optimism that a solution suiting all communities can be implemented soon.

13. Returns

A Municipal Working Group on Returns (MWGR), aiming at improving the returns coordination process, was established in May 2002. The group meets each month and includes all local counterparts as well as IDP representatives. Answering to this working group, two sub-working groups in the form of Task Forces have also been created. These task forces facilitate the dialogue between the displaced persons and the communities to which the IDPs hope to return. One of the task forces deals with Serb returns and the other with Ashkali and Roma returns.

According to UNHCR information, 612 Ashkali, 316 Kosovo Serbs and 44 Roma IDPs have returned to the municipality since 2000, most of which are so called “spontaneous returns”. Many other IDP families have shown a genuine interest to return. Unfortunately, the March 2004 riots not only stopped the process of returns, but also forced a large number of remaining urban Kosovo Serbs to leave their flats and houses, which were burned or vandalized at that time.

The reconstruction process of the damaged houses has been finalized, but there are still complaints from the owners with regards of the quality of works. Due to this reason and also owed to the fact that the problem of reconstruction of secondary/annex buildings is still pending, there are only a few families who have returned to their properties. Also, in the last few months, even that only nine houses have been officially register, some 60 cases of inter-ethnic sale have been register in this municipality. The majority of this cases were houses reconstructed after the March 2004 riots. It is also expected that this number will increase as the talks for the status of Kosovo will begin.

As the situation in the field has shown, neither the appointment of the Municipal Returns Officer nor the approval of the Municipal Returns Strategy 2005 have much helped to improve and revitalize the return process as it was expected by the municipal authorities.

² Those schools are run and finance by the Serbian government. They are teaching a different curriculum than the official Kosovo schools. However, the teachers are receiving an additional salary from the PISG structures.

³ The Albanian primary school “Hivzi Sylejmani” shares the same premises.