

Lipjan/Lipljan

September 2009

1. Area and population

Lipjan/Lipljan municipality is placed in the central Kosovo covering an area of 422 km². Lipjan/Lipljan town is located on the junction of the main routes from Prishtinë/Priština to Prizren and from Prishtinë/Priština to Skopje, the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The municipality consists of the town and 70 villages; 51 villages are populated by Kosovo Albanians, six by Kosovo Serbs, while thirteen villages and Lipjan/Lipljan town are ethnically mixed. Many roads are paved, yet in bad conditions. The electricity supply is often interrupted; water supply has improved thanks to the projects implemented with the international assistance.

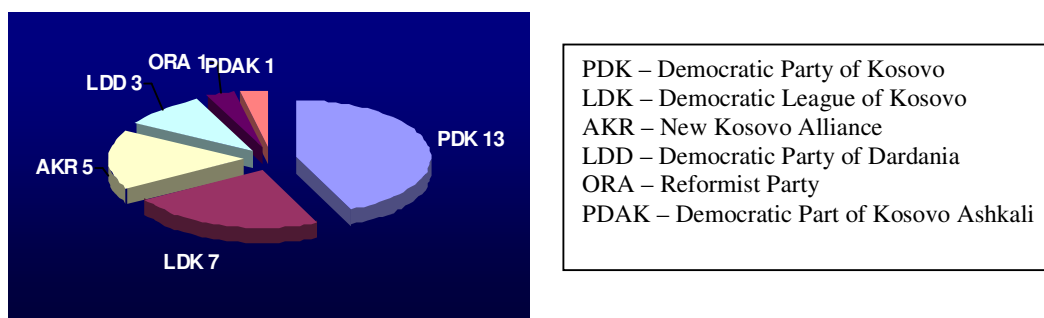
The total population is estimated at 76,000. The majority are Kosovo Albanians (83 percent). A substantial number of non-Albanian communities including Kosovo Serbs (9,500), Kosovo Ashkali (1,500), Kosovo Turks (400), Kosovo Croats (360), Kosovo Roma (330) and a few Kosovo Montenegrins and Bosniaks families also live there.

The municipality has mostly seen spontaneous/individual returns of Kosovo Serbs and more organised returns of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population. In general, the return of the Kosovo Serb community mainly occurred in Kosovo Serb majority inhabited villages while the return process to ethnically mixed villages proved not to be sustainable. Even though Lipjan/Lipljan municipality has not been strongly affected by the events of March 2004, after that, the return of the non-Albanian communities became sporadic.

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The municipal assembly consists of 31 members elected in the November 2007 municipal elections (please see below chart for seats allocation).



The mayor of the municipality elected during the second round of the latest municipal elections in December 2007 is Mr. Shukri Buja, from PDK. The deputy mayor is Florent Hoxha, also from PDK. The deputy mayor for communities, Mr. Siniša Šubarić, Kosovo Serb from Serb Liberal Party (SLS), was appointed in this post by the municipal assembly on 26 September 2008.

The chairman of municipal assembly, Mr. Lulzim Rustemi (PDK), was elected on 29 September while the deputy chairperson for communities of municipal assembly is Mr. Asan Abdullahu, affiliated with PDAK.

• Executive

Executive is made of the mayor and heads of ten municipal departments who compose the board of directors. The director of administration, Mr. Halit Gashi is from (LDD). The head of the municipal community office is Ms. Lidija Jovanović, Kosovo Serb. The municipal returns officer is Mr. Sadik Avdiu.

• Judiciary

Lipjan/Lipljan has a municipal court (five Kosovo Albanian judges) and a minor offences court (three Kosovo Albanian judges).

- **Security presence**

The Kosovo police station has 125 officers: 88 Kosovo Albanians, 34 Kosovo Serbs (all but one Kosovo Serb police officers reported back on duty after the suspension period terminated on 30 June 2009), two Kosovo Ashkali and one Kosovo Bosniak. There are also three EULEX police officers. Finnish and Irish KFOR troops cover the municipality.

- **3. Political overview**

After the November municipal elections, PDK became the leading political party in the municipality with 13 seats in the municipal assembly and holding most of the municipal departments. In coalition with LDD that is currently holding three seats, PDK has the majority in the municipal assembly. In a recent development, some PDK members turned over their affiliation and joined the Social Democratic Party (PSD). For the moment this has not implied any change in the municipal assembly functioning.

- **4. Economy**

The municipality is predominantly agriculture-oriented. After the 1999 conflict, most of the businesses are no longer operational. Many shops and restaurants have opened in the town, but approximately 80 percent of the population remains unemployed.

- **5. Public services**

- **Health**

In the municipality, different communities use different health facilities. Kosovo Albanians use the main health house in Lipjan/Lipljan town while Kosovo Serbs use a private health house. Upon the OSCE Mission's mediation, the health house in the Serbian inhabited village of Suvi Do/Suhodoll opened and is currently serving the Kosovo Serbs population residing in the municipality. In general, small health houses provide limited services and for hospital care Kosovo Albanians and Ashkali travel to Prishtinë/Priština, while Kosovo Serbs and Roma go to Laplje Selo/Llapje Sello village (Prishtinë/Priština municipality) or northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica

- **Education**

The municipality has two kindergartens (one Kosovo Albanian one Kosovo Serb), 23 primary schools for Kosovo Albanians, three for Kosovo Serbs, and one for the Kosovo Croat community in Janjevë/Janjevo. There are also three secondary schools: gymnasium and professional secondary school for Kosovo Albanians with two branches and one secondary school for Kosovo Serbs with one additional branch.

- **6. Map of the region**

