

Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje

August 2002



Compiled by the Department of Democratization

MUNICIPAL PROFILE

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

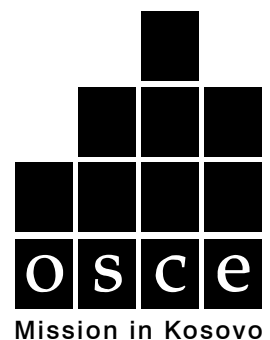


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1. Introduction: Area and Population

The municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje is located approximately eight kilometers south-west of Prishtinë/Priština city. The demographics of the area 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.

The municipality consists of 18 villages, five of which (Ugljare, Bresje, Kuzmin, Batuse and Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje town) are inhabited by minority communities including Kosovo Serb, Ashkali, Roma, Gorani, and Bosniak. All the minority villages, though predominately Kosovo Serb, are an integration of the different communities, except for Batušë which is 100% Kosovo Serb.

Although the situation between the Kosovo Serb and K/As remains tense, it is improving. There are still reports of incidents of abuse and harassment and restriction on freedom of movement for Kosovo Serbs.

Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs

Population	Kosovo Albanian		Kosovo Serbs		Ashkali		Roma		Other		Total
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	Approx.
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.

2. Civil Administration

The 28 October 2000 Municipal Elections saw the formation of the Municipal Assembly (MA) of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje in February 2001, with an LDK affiliated President and Deputy President. In addition, the MA comprises a further nine elected seats for LDK, five for PDK, three for AAK (two of which are now taken up by LKCK), and for 1 PDASHK (now named the Democratic Party for Ashkali of Kosovo, PDAK). The Chief Executive Officer, LDK affiliated, heads 10 departments and a municipal community office.

The non-participation by Kosovo Serbs in the first Municipal Elections and the subsequent refusal to take up MA positions appointed by the UN Special Representative (SRSG), including one of additional Deputy President, remains one the major challenges for local governance. The Policy and Finance Committee meet once per month and at these meetings, when the MA meeting agenda is formulated. However, the other two mandatory committees, Community and Mediation, seem to exist in name only. Without Kosovo Serb participation, the Communities Committee is, to a large extent, redundant and the Mediation committee has yet to produce an agenda or minutes from any meetings. The UN Civil Administration has proposed four names for Kosovo Serb participation, and it is hoped that these positions will be taken up in the MA before the 2002 Municipal Elections.

By contrast, the Civil Administration is composed of a balanced community representation with a total of 94 employees (not including the president or two vice presidents), 69 of which are Kosovo Albanian, 21 Kosovo Serb and 4 Roma/Ashkali.

Table 2.1: Composition of the Municipal Assembly

Name of Municipal Assembly Member / Professional Background	Affiliation (Party, Independent Candidate or Community representative through appointment)
Mr Skender Zogaj	LDK President
Mr Sabit Hykolli	LDK Deputy-President
Mr Bajram Islami	LDK
Mr Rexhep Gerguri	LDK
Mr Ilbush Kelmendi	LDK
Mrs Violeta Krasniqi	LDK
Mr Sabit Bullatovci	LDK
Mr Ruzhdi Berjani	LDK
Mrs Futnete Dervisholli	LDK
Mr Haki Gojnovci	LDK
Mr Daut Pllana	LDK
Mr Naser Grajgevc	PDK
Mr Ahmet Krasniqi	PDK
Mr Fadil Berisha	PDK
Mr Sabit Thaqi	PDK
Mr Ibrahim Berisha	PDK
Mr Haki Prebreza	LKCK
N/A	LKCK
Mr Jutullah Sopjani	AAK
Mr Qerim Gara	PDASHK

Source: UN Civil Administration

Table 2.2: Municipal Assembly Committees

Committee	Chairperson / Affiliation	Vice-chairperson / Affiliation
Policy and Finance Committee	Skender Zogaj (LDK)	N/A
Communities Committee	Sveta Grujic – not participating	N/A
Mediation Committee	Jetullah Sopjani (AAK)	N/A

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 – Abdulah Prebreza	Department of Urbanism and Geodesy
Director – Shaqir Basholli	Department of Public Utilities and Environment
Director – Fadil Krasniqi	Department of Finance
Director – Berisha Maliq	Department of Education and Science
Director – Ismet Bajqinca	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 – Sladana Lazic	Municipal Community Office

Source: UN Civil Administration

3. Political Parties

Table 3.1: Political Parties

Party	Municipal Branch Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader	Vote in 2000 Mun. Elec.	Seats in MA
Democratic League Of Kosovo (LDK)	Gani Prekopuca	Ibrahim Rugova	54%	13
Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK)	Ahmet Kraniqi	Hashim Thaci	17%	4
Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK)	Ahaban Ademi	Ramush Haradinaj	11%	3
Democratic Party of Albanian Ashkali in Kosovo (PDASHK)		Sabiti Rahmani	3.7%	1
Party for Independence (KP)			1.5%	-
Liberal Party of Kosovo (PLK)		Gjergji Dedaj	1.5%	-
Republican Party of Kosovo (PRK)		Feti Grapci	0.7%	-
Social Democratic Party of Kosovo (PSDK)		Kaqusha Jashari	1.3%	-
Serb Socialist Party (SPS)*	Miroslav Velichkovic	-	-	-
SPOT*	Jivorad Lazic	-	-	-

Source: 2000 Election results - OSCE Elections Department / * Did not participate in 2000 Municipal Elections

4. Local and International NGOs

There are several local Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The Mother Theresa Society and the Kosovo Red Cross are regarded as Kosovo Albanian affiliated, while the Yugoslav Red Cross largely focusing on humanitarian aid for the Kosovo Serb and other minority communities. With regard to human rights there is only one remaining Kosovo Serb NGO, Hand to Hand. 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 OSCE to contact the Ashkali and Roma 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)
Yugoslav Red Cross	Humanitarian aid	Ljilana Bojkovic
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	

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	Ms. Deborah Conner Tel: 038 549 033	Prishtinë/Priština
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Humanitarian	Kari Mette Monsen Tel: 038 243 610	Prishtinë/Priština
Medicins du Monde (MDM)	Medical aid	Elenore Senlis Tel: 038 549 544	Prishtinë/Priština
Medicins Sans Frontiers (MSF)	Medical aid		Prishtinë/Priština
Pharmaciens sans Frontiers (PSF)	Medical aid		Prishtinë/Priština
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Reconstruction		Prishtinë/Priština
International Organisation of Migration (IOM)	Working with citizens forum		Prishtinë/Priština
Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI)	Reconstruction	Eugenie Bolsini Tel: 038 549 139	Prishtinë/Priština
Italian Consortium for Solidarity (ICS)	Roma and Ashkali communities	Raffaella Bolini Tel: 038 28110	Prishtinë/Priština
Doctors of the World	Health Education, instruction; training	Michelle Finlay Tel: 038 549 833	Prishtinë/Priština
Children's Aid Direct	Children	Kerim Bardad Deidj Tel: 038 549 092	Prishtinë/Priština

5. Other Civilian International Presence

The UN Civil Administration is located in the old municipality building. The UNMIK Municipal Community Office, which focuses on issues and concerns of the minority communities, is located in the same building. 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.

Shortly after the 17 November 2001 Kosovo-wide Election, the OSCE underwent a restructuring process, which resulted in the downsizing of its field presence. In December 2001, the OSCE Field Office, which had covered Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilić municipalities since October 1999, was closed. OSCE continues its activities in the municipality, but the majority of staff is now based in the OSCE Office in Prishtinë/Priština.

The OSCE maintains a presence through its Community Centre, which has been serving the community since the beginning of 2001. The OSCE Department of Democratization manages and supports the centre, which helps to foster inter-ethnic dialogue and interaction. Amongst other facilities, the community centre has a large meeting room, resource centre and an internet centre with 12 computers (run and managed by OSCE staff). It is also part of a larger community complex. The UNMIK Civil Administration Local Community Office, the multi-ethnic station, Radio K, and NGO offices are located in the same building.

Table 5.1: The Pillars

Name	Number of Staff (nat.+int.)	Contact Person	Title	Phone / Fax / E-mail
UN Civil Adm.		June Ward	UN Civil Administrator	
OSCE	6 national; 1 international	Vasilija Stanic	Community Centre Manager	66281/66022

6. Religion, Places of Worship, and Cultural Institutions

The main religious bodies in the municipality are Christians and Muslims. Kosovo Serbs are Serbian Orthodox, while the majority of Kosovo Albanians are Muslim. There are 3 Serbian Orthodox churches, protected by Kosovo Force (KFOR), and a total of 11 mosques. There is also a House of Culture in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje town in which a library and cinema were once located, but these are now defunct; the House of Culture is primarily used as office space for the Kosovo Albanian political parties.

Table 6.1: Primary Mosques, Churches, etc.

Type of Building	Towns/Places
St Nicolas Church	Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje Town
St Ekatarina Church	Bresje Village
St Nedelja Church	Batuse Village
Mosques (eleven)	Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Bardh I ma, Mesebardh, Bardh I Vog, Slatin e Ma, Harilaq, Vragoli, Miradi e Ul, Miradi e Ep; Lismir

Source: UN Municipal Report 2001

7. Media

There are two radio stations in the municipality, one small Kosovo Serb station Enigma that mainly broadcasts music and Radio K, the multiethnic radio station located at the Community Centre. For the first six months they were broadcasting only in the Serbian and Albanian languages, now they have programs for the languages of the Roma and Ashkali communities. Various donors fund Radio K. One of the revenue raising challenges of the station is that Kosovo Albanian businesses are not interested in advertising on the multiethnic station.

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

Name of media	Type of Media (newspaper, radio, etc.)	Editor/Correspondant (or other)	Language of Programmes
Radio K	Radio	Naim Breynica	Multi-lingual
Enigma	Radio	Bojan Layic	Serbian

Source: OSCE Media and Affairs and Press Office – Prishtinë/Priština

8. Judicial System

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

9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

Tensions remain between the Kosovo Serb and the Kosovo Albanian communities and incidents of harassment are still reported. However, in comparison to other ethnically mixed municipalities, it is a relatively calm.

Battalions from Norway, Greece, and Russia are currently operational in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, but Russian KFOR are scheduled to withdraw from theatre in June 2002. UNMIK Police officers are also due to reduce in number from 69 to 48 by June 2002. One of the main tasks of the military is to focus on confidence-building measures among Kosovo Serbs, as the military assessment is that the threat perception is much greater than the actual threat itself. The downsizing of KFOR and UNMIK Police is an indication of the growing confidence in the progress of stability in the municipality.

Table 9.1: Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

Establishment	Local Commander	Number of Police Officers, Soldiers, etc.	Ethnic Composition, Nationality
KPS	Ms. Chandana Tiwari	107	92 Kosovo Albanian; 15 Kosovo Serb
UN Civil Police	Ms. Chandana Tiwari	Downsizing from 69-48 as of June 2002	International
Norwegian KFOR	Major Jonassen Tor Erik	150	Norwegian

Source: UNMIK Regional KPS Command

10. Economy

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje municipality has a potentially strong economic base centred on agriculture, as 60% of the municipal land is arable, comprising 3,670 hectares of forests, 522 hectares freehold pastures, and 688 hectares of fruit orchards. There is a vast infrastructure of agro-processing industries that, although for the most part is 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 was only running at 50% its capacity. Ideal for military operations, KFOR decided to base themselves in the factory and so it was forced to close. Although Norwegian KFOR are scheduled to leave the mill in June 2002, there are plans for UNMIK police to take over the occupancy.

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 is a 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
UN Civil Administration	governance	Yes	Approx 100
Yumco textile factory	Textiles	Yes	Approx 100
Railway station	Rail service	Yes	

11. Infrastructure

Located on the main route from the city 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 (FYROM) border and Lešak in Leposavić/Leposaviq. Passenger trains run twice a day, seven days a week and the rail network also provides key transportation for goods.

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje receives its regular water supply from a small lake in Kuzmin/Kuzmin. In comparison to other municipalities in Kosovo, such as those receiving water from Batllava/Batlava Lake, the water quality does not meeting 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 and 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

During the second half of 1999, the UN Civil Administration delivered financial aid to the vulnerable individuals in the municipality. A Social Welfare office was later established and managed directly from Prishtinë/Priština, which now deals with these matters. Modest pensions for Kosovo Serbs continue to be delivered from Serbia proper.

Health

Health facilities in the municipality are segregated. Bresje health facility serves Kosovo Serbs and receives support from Russian KFOR in supply of equipment and in some circumstances, KFOR doctors. Kosovo Albanians rely mainly on the health facilities in Prishtinë/Priština, although there are also three basic health clinics, ambulantas in Kosovo Albanian villages.

Education

Education institutions are also segregated. For Kosovo Albanians there is one pre-primary school, six primary schools, and three secondary schools. For Kosovo Serbs and other minority communities there are small primary schools in the villages of Batuše and Kuzmin. All other pupils of primary school age attend school in the village of Ugljare. There is one secondary/medical school for Kosovo Serbs in the Sveti Sava, but the majority of secondary school students travel to Gracanica or to Laplje Selo in neighbouring Prishtinë/Priština municipality.