

## Malishevë/Mališevo

September 2009

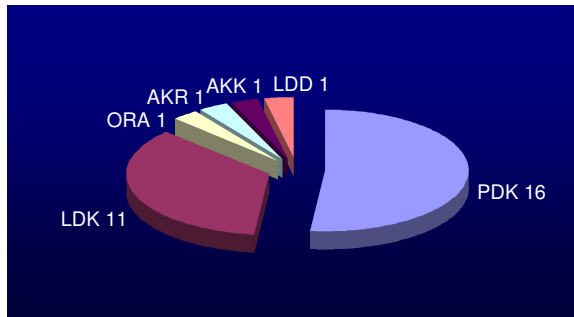
### 1. Area and population

Malishevë/Mališevo is located in the central Kosovo. With estimated 65,000 inhabitants, it is a rural area comprising 44 settlements. The youths make up 60-65% of the population. Malishevë/Mališevo is inhabited by Kosovo Albanians with some 65 Kosovo Roma also living there. Prior to the 1999 conflict, there were approximately 400 to 450 Kosovo Serbs mostly living in the villages of Kijevë/Kijevo and Mleqanë/Mleçane. Malishevë/Mališevo was firstly established as a municipality in 1960 and then abolished in 1965. In 1986 the municipality was re-established only to be again abolished in 1991, and its territory divided among the neighbouring municipalities. During the 1990s, it remained an entity within the Kosovo Albanian parallel system. During the conflict in Kosovo in 1998/1999, the town was a stronghold for the Kosovo Liberation Army. The municipality was formally re-established in July 2000.

### 2. Governing structures

#### ● Legislative

Sixteen out of thirty-one members of the municipal assembly, elected in the 2007 elections are affiliated with PDK, while LDK holds 11 seats. AAK, LDD, ORA and AKR, are all represented by one member in the municipal assembly each (see table below). PDK, AAK and AKR established a ruling coalition in the municipal assembly.



PDK – Democratic Party of Kosovo  
LDK – Democratic League of Kosovo  
LDD – Democratic Party of Dardania  
AAK – Alliance for the Future of Kosovo  
ORA – Reforming Party of Kosovo  
AKR – New Kosovo Alliance

The chairperson of the municipal assembly is the former PDK caucus leader, Mr. Mursel Gashi. Three committees were established to assist the municipal assembly with recommendations: policy and finance committee (PFC); communities committee (CC); and emergency and preparedness committee (EPC). The PFC and CC are functional while the EPC convenes on *ad hoc* basis, in particular during the summer. On 30 April 2009, Malishevë/Mališevo municipality constituted its new municipal community safety council.

#### ● Executive

In 2007, Mr. Isni Kilaj (PDK) was elected mayor of Malishevë/Mališevo and Mr. Ragip Begaj (PDK) was appointed deputy mayor. Municipal administration composed of eight directorates with 138 civil servants. It is worth noting that 24 percent of the municipal employees are female. Kosovo Roma community is represented with one municipal employee. While the position of the municipal returns officer has been filled the municipality has not yet appointed a municipal community officer. Nevertheless, Malishevë/Mališevo has still not drafted a proper returns strategy.

#### ● Judiciary

Malishevë/Mališevo has a municipal court (two professional judges and 15 lay judges) and a minor offence court (two judges).

#### ● Security presence

Local Kosovo police (KP) station was handed over to KP in 2004 and now counts 86 police officers. EULEX has deployed four police officers who are based in the station. The main problems police faces are related to an increase of suicide cases and domestic violence. Despite of security situation usually assessed as calm, KFOR presence is still visible (e.g. regular patrols of Austrian KFOR from the Suharekë/Suva Reka base. German Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) observes the municipal community safety council (MCSC) meetings. On 22 May 2009 KFOR LMT opened a Field House in Malishevë/Mališevo town. In addition, KFOR Civilian-Military Cooperation (CIMIK) runs a liaison/contact office in the municipal building.

### 3. Political overview

Eight national political parties have established local branches in Malishevë/Mališevo: PDK, LDK, AAK, LDD, AKR, ORA, Kosovo Demo-Christian Party (PSHDK) and Movement for Integration and Unity

(LIB). Since 2002, the municipality is run by PDK and its victory in 2007 was not perceived as a surprise. The 2007 elections revealed the growing influence of two 'new' parties: AKR with 4.61 percent of votes and LDD with 4.52 percent of votes. Noteworthy, none of the political party branches in Malishevë/Mališevo succeeded in sending representatives to the Assembly of Kosovo. Since 2008, Mr. Kilaj has made fruitful efforts to improve the relationship with LDK. The opposition now enjoys greater recognition in the governing structures, in particular in the municipal assembly where its requests are being taken into consideration.

#### **4. Economy**

Malishevë/Mališevo municipality is one of the poorest in Kosovo. Its economy relies on small businesses and agriculture, in particular the growing of wheat and corn. In the past, the socially owned agricultural enterprise "Mirusha" was the only major company based in the municipality and employed 1,400 long-term and seasonal workers. Now, 820 private businesses registered in the municipality employ some 3,000 people. The majority of these businesses provide services such as transport and commerce. Many are coffee shops. With this said, the unemployment rate in Malishevë/Mališevo is very high. The municipal employment office has registered 7,099 unemployed residents but it is to assumed that the number is much higher as many residents do not register.

#### **5. Public services**

##### **• Health**

The municipality has one health house located the town centre, six sub-units located in villages Kijevë/Kijevo, Bellanicë/Belanica, Tërpezë/Terpeza, Pagarushë/Pagaruša, Panor/Panorac and Llashka Drenoc/Vlaški Drenovac, and 10 health care units "ambulantas" located in other villages. The municipal health sector employs 126 persons (20 doctors, 75 nurses and 31 administrative personnel). The staffing problems and medical shortages affect the quality of the services, in particular in remote rural areas. In terms of equipment, the health public sector is in need of an ambulance to improve its reactivity in case of emergency. There are also eight private clinics that are mainly dealing with dentistry, gynaecology, orthopaedics. The hemorrhagic fever is one of the diseases that mostly affect the municipality, especially during the summer season. It is an issue of concerns for both the municipal officials and the population but Malishevë/Mališevo municipality does not have enough capacities to efficiently fight the disease, due to a lack of funds and the alleged failure of Kosovo ministry of health and social welfare to provide adequate support.

##### **• Education**

There are 17,576 students attending elementary and secondary education in the municipality. Forty primary schools, among them 11 satellite schools, cater to 14,890 pupils and two secondary schools, located in Kijevë/Kijevo and in Malishevë/Mališevo town cater to 2,686 students; there are 1,013 teachers and technical personnel. The municipality faces two majors problems: the absence of kindergarten and the lack of space in the current schools. To tackle the latter, KFOR CIMIC assisted the municipality in the renovation of 2 schools (2006-2007). Nowadays, the municipality plans to build a professional secondary school thanks to funds donated by the Norwegian government.

#### **6. Map of the region**

