

1. Area and Population

The municipality of Istog/Istok is located in north-western Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 454 km² and includes Istog/Istok town and 50 villages. According to the Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011, the total population is 39,289.

Ethnic composition

1. Kosovo Albanians: 36,154
2. Kosovo Egyptians: 1,544
3. Kosovo Bosniaks: 1,142
4. Kosovo Serbs: 194
5. Kosovo Ashkali: 111
6. Kosovo Roma: 39
7. Kosovo Turks: 10
- 8.; Others: 45
9. Not specified: 50

(Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics)

Note: According to the municipal office for communities and returns, approximately 2,300 Kosovo Serbs and 1,650 Kosovo Egyptians reside in the municipality.

Prior to the 1999 conflict the number of Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Roma living in the municipality was higher. They are since displaced and there is no available data on their whereabouts (source: municipal officer for communities and return).

2. Governing Structures and Political Overview

A total number of voters in Istog/Istok municipality registered for the last municipal elections held in November 2009 was 38,533 including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout was 39.97 per cent/15,405 voters (source: Central Elections Commission).

The election results were as follows:

LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo	37.22%	11 seats
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo	22.19%	6 seats
PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo	16.46%	5 seats
LDD - Democratic League of Dardania	11.00%	3 seats
AKR Alliance for New Kosovo	3.32%	1 seat
IRDK New Initiative for Democracy in Kosovo	2.01%	1 seat

The OSCE regional centre Pejë/Peć covers six (6) municipalities including Istog/Istok and has field teams working in all of them.



a. Legislative

The municipal assembly has 27 seats distributed amongst six (6) political entities; 26 are Kosovo Albanian and one (1) is Kosovo Egyptian; nine (9) members are female. The municipal assembly chairperson is Demë Çeta (LDK).

According to the law on local self-government, a municipality with more than ten (10) per cent of residents belonging to communities not in majority in that municipality is required to appoint a deputy municipal assembly chairperson for communities. Municipal assembly deputy chairperson for communities in Istog/Istok is Fazli Stollaj (Kosovo Egyptian) from (IRDK). (Source: Central Elections Commission)

b. Executive

The municipality is headed by mayor, Haki Rugova (LDK), and deputy mayor, Agim Ademaj (LDK). It has eight (8) directorates: general administration; budget and finance; economic development and planning; urbanism, cadastre and environment protection; health and social welfare; education and culture; public services and protection; agriculture, forestry and hydro-economy. All department directors are from LDK (source: municipal department of general administration).

3. Judiciary

The Pejë/Peć basic court branch in Istog/Istok has four (4) judges, Kosovo Albanian, all male.

Additional information

Pejë/Peć basic prosecutor's office covers the municipality.

(Source: Kosovo Judicial Council)

4. Security Presence

The Kosovo police station in Istog/Istok municipality has 82 police officers; 78 Kosovo Albanian, three (3) Kosovo Bosniak and one (1) Kosovo Egyptian officer; six (6) officers are female.

(Source: Kosovo police).

As for the international military presence Slovenian KFOR covers the area (Source: Slovenian KFOR Liaison Monitoring Team - LMT).

5. Economy

The economy of the municipality of Istog/Istok is mainly based on agriculture.

There are some 660 registered private businesses operating in the municipality. There is no reliable data on the number of employed in private sector in Istog/Istok (source: municipal business center).

6. Public Services

a. Infrastructure

The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality of Istog/Istok is assessed as good.

All the main roads connecting major villages with the urban centre are asphalted. Town and most of villages are connected to the water supply system while only 15 per cent of population has access to the sewage system. Power supply is still a problem especially in winter (source: municipal department of public services and protection).

b. Health

The primary health care system currently includes five (5) municipal family health centres, one (1) located in town and four (4) in Vrellë/Vrela, Banjë/Banja, Gjurakoc/Đurakovac and Rakosh/Rakoš villages. In addition ten (10) primary health care centres are located in the main villages. The health sector has 123 employees, including doctors, nurses and support staff.

Access:

All communities have access to health care and all health facilities (source: municipal department of health and social welfare).

c. Education

There are 11 primary schools with 6,935 pupils and 386 teachers; two (2) secondary schools with 2,158 students and 106 teachers; and five (5) kindergartens with 241 children and 16 teachers (source: municipal department of education and culture).

7. Religious and Cultural sites

Istog/Istok has 13 mosques. Most of them were renovated following the conflict (source the president of the Islamic community of Istog/Istok). Out of six (6) Serbian Orthodox churches located in Istog/Istok municipality, two are not in use (in Banjë/Banja and Gjurakoc/Đurakovac villages). There is one Catholic church in Gurrakoc/Đurakovac (source: municipal officer for communities and return).

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In Istog/Istok there are:

27 seats in the municipal assembly distributed amongst 6 political entities.

82 police officers.

4 judges.

508 teachers in 11 primary, 2 secondary schools and 5 kindergartens.