

1. Area and Population

The municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac is located in south-western Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 275 km² and includes Rahovec/Orahovac town and 35 villages. According to Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011 the total population is 56,208.

Ethnic composition:

1. Kosovo Albanians: 55,166
2. Kosovo Ashkali: 404
3. Kosovo Egyptians: 299
4. Kosovo Serbs: 134
5. Kosovo Roma: 84
6. Kosovo Bosniaks: 10
7. Kosovo Turks: 2
8. Other: 11
9. Not specified: 98

(Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics)

Note: According to the municipal office of communities and returns, approximately 800 Kosovo Serbs reside in the upper part of the town and in the village of Velika Hoća/Hoçë e Madhe.

Prior to the 1999 conflict, there were nine (9) settlements in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality with mixed Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian population. Kosovo Serbs are since displaced; most of them are reportedly concentrated around Kruševac, Belgrade and Paraćin (source: municipal office of communities and return).

2. Governing Structures and Political Overview

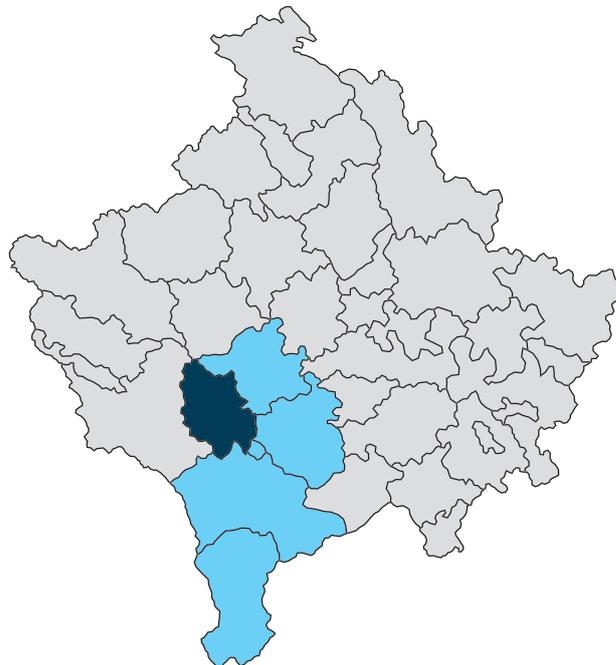
The total number of voters in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality registered for the last municipal elections held in November 2009 was 47,400, including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout was 45.55 per cent/21,591 voters (source: Central Elections Commission).

The election results were as shown to the right:



Note: In 2012, one municipal assembly member from LDD joined AAK.

The OSCE regional centre Prizren covers six (6) municipalities including Rahovec/Orahovac and has field teams working in all of them.



a. Legislative

The municipal assembly has 31 seats distributed amongst seven (7) political entities; all 31 members are Kosovo Albanian, 11 are female. The municipal assembly chairperson since February 2012 is Xhemajli Haxhimustafa (PDK).

b. Executive

Rahovec/Orahovac municipality is headed by mayor Smajl Latifi (AAK) and deputy mayor Hazer Tara (PDK). It has 11 departments and department directors: general administration (AAK); health and social welfare (LIB); education (not affiliated); finance and budget (AAK); economy and development (PDK); urbanism, planning and environment (AAK); geodesy, cadastre and property (not declared); public services (AAK); agriculture, forestry and rural development (not affiliated); inspections (not affiliated); and culture, youth and sports (not affiliated).

3. Judiciary

Gjakovë/Djakovica basic court has a branch in Rahovec/Orahovac with seven (7) Kosovo Albanian male judges (source: basic court).

Additional information

Gjakovë/Djakovica basic prosecutor's office covers the municipality.

4. Security Presence

The Kosovo police station in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality has 60 police officers; 58 Kosovo Albanians and two (2) Kosovo Serbs, while two (2) are female. As for the international military presence, the Austrian KFOR covers the area and has a Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) House operating in the municipality (source: Kosovo police).

5. Economy

The economy of the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac is mainly based on agriculture, particularly viticulture, and production of plastic, heaters, freezers, and recycling. There are some 1,120 registered private businesses operating in the municipality. There is no reliable data on the number of people employed in the private sector in Rahovec/Orahovac (source: municipal directorate of urbanism, planning and environment).

6. Public Services

a. Infrastructure

The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac is assessed as good.

All the main roads connecting all villages with the urban centre are asphalted. The water supply system is functioning in Rahovec/Orahovac town and in a limited number of villages. However, Kosovo Serb inhabited Upper Rahovec/Orahovac occasionally faces water cuts for days or weeks. Power supply is still a problem, especially in the winter time, but there has been a slight improvement due to the construction of a modern transformer station in 2010. In 2012, the supply of electricity improved significantly, with barely any shortages (source: municipal development plan).

b. Health

There is one (1) primary family health centre, six (6) family health centres, and four (4) health houses, two of which are in Kosovo Serb inhabited Upper Rahovec/Orahovac and Velika Hoća/Hoçë e Madhe respectively. The health sector has 126 employees, including doctors, nurses and support staff, 70 male and 56 female, nine (9) of which are Kosovo Serbs.

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

c. Education

There are 35 primary schools with 9,840 pupils and 690 teachers; four (4) secondary schools with 2,780 pupils and 120 teachers: of which two (2) primary and one (1) secondary school follow Serbian curriculum. There are also six (6) pre-school classes and one (1) kindergarten with 118 children and 29 teachers (source: municipal directorate of education).

7. Religious and Cultural sites

There are 23 mosques in Rahovec/Orahovac. Most of them were renovated following the 1999 conflict and around ten (10) were demolished and replaced with new mosques. One (1) Serbian Orthodox monastery and one (1) church have been damaged in the 1999 conflict but have since been renovated and are currently in use. In total, there are 12 churches and monasteries in use in the municipality (source: municipal development plan).

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In Rahovec/Orahovac there are:

31 seats in the municipal assembly distributed amongst 7 political entities.

60 police officers.

7 judges.

839 teachers in 35 primary and 4 secondary schools and 1 kindergarten.