

## 1. Area and Population

The municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpçë is located in the south-eastern part of Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 247 km<sup>2</sup> and includes Štrpce/Shtërpçë town and 16 villages. According to the Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011 the total population is 6,949.

### Ethnic composition

1. Kosovo Albanians: 3,757
2. Kosovo Serbs: 3,148
3. Kosovo Roma: 24
4. Kosovo Bosniaks: 2
5. Kosovo Ashkali: 1
6. Other: 7
7. Not specified: 10

(Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics)

*Note: According to the municipal office for communities and returns, the total population is estimated at 13,630 with the following ethnic composition:*

1. Kosovo Serbs: 9,100 residing in the town and Sevcë/Sevcë, Jažince/Jazhincë, Brezovica/Brezovicë, Vrbeštica/Vërbeshticë, Beroc/Berevcë, Donja Bitinja/ Biti e Poshtme, Gornja Bitinja/Biti e Epërme, Sušice/Sushicë, Gotoviša/Gotovushë, Viča/Viqë and Drajkovce/Drekoc villages;
2. Kosovo Albanians: 4,500 residing in Brod/Brod, Firajë/Firaja, Kashtanevë/Koştanjevo, Izhancë/Ižance, Donja Bitinja/ Biti e Poshtme, Gornja Bitinja/Biti e Epërme, Viča/Viqë and Drajkovce/Drekoc villages.
3. Kosovo Roma: 30 mainly residing in the town and Berevcë/Beroc village.

After the 1999 conflict about 900 displaced Kosovo Serbs and refugees from Croatia arrived and reside in the municipality. Out of that number, 400 live in the collective shelters in Brezovica/Brezovicë while the rest live in private houses.

## 2. Governing Structures and Political Overview

A total number of voters in Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality registered for the last municipal elections held in November 2009 were 12,604 including out-of-Kosovo voters. 48.87 per cent or 5,839 voters cast their ballot in the last elections.

The election results were as shown to the right:

### a. Legislative

The Municipal Assembly has 19 seats distributed amongst five (5) political entities. Nine (9) members are Kosovo Serbs, ten (10) Kosovo Albanians. Seven (7)

The OSCE regional centre Gjilan/Gnjilane covers 11 municipalities including Štrpce/Shtërpçë and has field teams working in all of them.



|                                  |        |         |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| SLS Independent Liberal Party    | 42.10% | 8 seats |
| PDK Democratic Party of Kosovo   | 26.31% | 5 seats |
| PSK Socialist Party of Kosovo    | 15.78% | 3 seats |
| LDK Democratic League of Kosovo  | 10.52% | 2 seats |
| ZZSŽ Together for Sirinička Župa | 5.26%  | 1 seat  |

assembly members are female. The municipal assembly chairperson is Predrag Grbić, (ZZSŽ).

### b. Executive

Municipality is headed by mayor, Bratislav Nikolić (SLS), deputy mayor, Rodoljub Mladenović (SLS) - as of 3rd January 2013 - and deputy mayor for communities, Beqir Fejzullahu (PDK). It further has eight (8) departments and department directors: general administration (PDK); budget and finance (PDK); health and social welfare (PDK); emergency and public services (SLS); education, youth, culture and sport (SLS); planning, reconstruction and urban development (SLS); geodesy, cadastre and property (SLS); economic development, tourism, agriculture and forestry (SLS);  
(Source: municipal web site).

Additional information:

In Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality there are two local governments operating parallel to each other; the

municipal administration operating under Kosovo system and the structure elected in 11 May 2008 Serbian local elections that consists of seven municipal council members.

### 3. Judiciary

The basic court of Ferizaj/Uroševac has a branch in Štrpce/Shtërpçë with three (3) judges; all are Kosovo Albanian male (source: Ferizaj/Uroševac branch of Štrpce/Shtërpçë basic court).

#### Additional information

Ferizaj/Uroševac basic prosecutor's office covers the municipality.

### 4. Security Presence

The Kosovo police station in Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality has 52 police officers, 42 Kosovo Serbs and ten (10) Kosovo Albanians; five (5) are female.

As for the international military presence, US KFOR covers the area (Source: Kosovo police).

### 5. Economy

The economy of the municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpçë is mainly based on agriculture (predominantly raspberry production), tourism and small trade businesses. The number of registered private businesses is 167. There are no exact data on the number of employees in private sector in Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality (source: municipal directorate for economic development, tourism, agriculture and forestry).

### 6. Public Services

#### a. Infrastructure

The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpçë is now assessed as good. With the support of the central level institutions and international partners, the municipal government worked on improving the infrastructure (asphalting of roads and sidewalks, installing new water supply system, improving street illumination, constructing drainage canals, opening public parking, constructing facility for green market, constructing and reconstructing outdoor playgrounds). All the main roads connecting major villages with the urban centre are asphalted. The water supply and sewage system is connected to the households in most of the villages. Since August 2009 the power supply improved, as residents started paying the electricity bills (source: municipal directorate for planning, reconstruction, urban development).

#### b. Health

The primary health care system currently includes: one (1) municipal family health centre located in Štrpce/Shtërpçë town and seven (7) health houses in both

Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian villages. The health sector has 22 employees, ten (10) females and 12 males, including doctors, nurses and support staff that work under the Kosovo system. Approximately 300 employees paid by the Serbian Ministry of Health are working in the municipal family health centre and health houses located in different villages in Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality. Both Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians have access to health care and health facilities regardless of the system under which they operate.

A new hospital in Štrpce/Shtërpçë funded by the Kosovo government was constructed in 2012 (the works started in spring 2010). The Kosovo government approved the funds for the staff, however, more funds are necessary to equip the hospital (source: municipal directorate of health and social welfare).

#### c. Education

There are six (6) primary schools and two (2) secondary schools with 2,500 pupils and 244 teachers. Three (3) primary and one (1) secondary schools follow the Serbian curriculum, while three (3) primary and one (1) secondary school follow the Kosovo curriculum (source: municipal directorate of education, youth, culture and sport).

### 6. Religious and Cultural sites

Štrpce/Shtërpçë has 16 Serbian Orthodox churches and 5 mosques, all in use. Most of the churches were renovated following the conflict (source: municipal directorate for planning, reconstruction, urban development).

## toknow

In Štrpce/Shtërpçë there are:

|     |                                                                           |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19  | seats in the municipal assembly distributed amongst 5 political entities. |
| 52  | police officers.                                                          |
| 3   | judges.                                                                   |
| 244 | teachers in 6 primary and 2 secondary schools and 1 kindergarten.         |