

Dragash/Dragaš

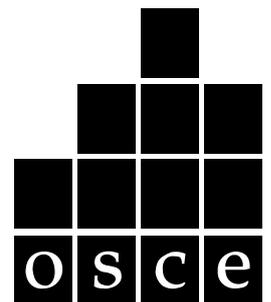
August 2002



Compiled by the Department of Democratization

MUNICIPAL PROFILE

ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE



Mission in Kosovo

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1. Introduction: Area and Population

Dragash/Dragaš municipality is located in the southernmost part of Kosovo, approximately 22 kilometres south-west of Prizren/Prizren, bordering Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYRoM). Dragash/Dragaš town is situated at an altitude of 1,050 meters. From the municipal capital there is a main road north to Prizren/Prizren (36 km) and two main roads to the towns of Restelica (24 km) and Brod (12 km). During winter, most villages in southern part of the municipality are difficult to reach.

Dragash/Dragaš municipality includes 37 villages in an area of 434 square kilometres and has a population of approximately 35,000. About two-thirds of the population is Kosovo Albanian, while the other one third is Gorani. The municipality consists of two regions, Gora and Opoja, which are both almost entirely ethnically pure. Gora covers the majority of the territory of the municipality and is inhabited mainly by Goranis, a Slav Muslim people, and a small number of Bosniaks, comprised of approximately 100. Opoja is in the north-east of the municipality and is inhabited mainly by Kosovo Albanians. Dragash/Dragaš town itself is ethnically mixed and has a population of approximately 1,300 and serves as the cultural and administrative centre for both Gora and Opoja.

Dragash/Dragaš municipality is probably unique within Kosovo for its tolerant environment between its two communities. There were several incidences of ethnic violence in the aftermath of the 1999 conflict, but the situation has been calm since mid-2001. Nevertheless, after nightfall the freedom of movement is seriously restricted for Gorani inhabitants of the municipality.

Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition

Date	Kosovo Albanian		Goranis		TOTAL	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1991 (Census)	22,802	59%	16,112	41%	38,914	100%
January 1999	27,633	61%	17,470	39%	45,103	100%
March 2000 (Estimate)	24,856	72%	9,706	28%	34,562	100%

Source: For 1991: Federal Office of Statistics in Serbia; For 1999: UNHCR Kosovo Village List; For March 2000: OSCE Satellite Office Dragash/Dragaš, for Gora; CRS statistics for Opoja.

2. Civil Administration

The Municipal Assembly (MA) of Dragash/Dragaš was established on 21 November 2000. The MA replaced the self-appointed PDK structure that had been set up immediately after the conflict. Some of these parallel structure positions still exist today, although the transfer of power was smooth when United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) arrived. Today's MA has 21 elected members, 10 from the LDK, 6 from the PDK, 3 from the GIG, and 2 from the SDA.

There is only one female municipal representative (a GIG member), but both the Kosovo Albanian and Gorani communities are represented. The MA President and the first Deputy President are LDK members while the additional Deputy President is a GIG member. The Municipal Assembly meets regularly, at least once a month.

Prior to the Kosovo Assembly elections in 2001, GIG and SDA joined the 'Vatan' coalition, alongside a Prizren-based party, the DRSM.

Table 2.1: Composition of the Municipal Assembly

Name of Municipal Assembly Member/Professional Background	Party Affiliation (Party, Independent Candidate or Community representative through appointment)	Position
Mr Halim SHEMSIDINI	LDK	President
Mr Aslan ZEJNULLAHU	LDK	Deputy President
Mr Harun ASLANI	GIG	Deputy President
Mr Ymer ADEMI	LDK	Assembly Member

Mr Hajriz KRYEZIU	LDK	Assembly Member
Mr Kapllan FETAHU	LDK	Assembly Member
Mr Mynafir BESHIRI	LDK	Assembly Member
Mr Hashim JAKUPI	LDK	Assembly Member
Mr Xhemajli ILJAZI	LDK	Assembly Member
Mr Hysen TYTYRI	LDK	Assembly Member
Mr Masar PIRAJ	LDK	Assembly Member
Mr Bedri HALIMI	PDK	Assembly Member
Mr Ibrahim GASHI	PDK	Assembly Member
Mr Mitat FEJZA	PDK	Assembly Member
Mr Rrahim YMERI	PDK	Assembly Member
Mr Shaban SHABANI	PDK	Assembly Member
Mr Hajriz MELEQI	PDK	Assembly Member
Mr Mohammed SELIMI	GIG	Assembly Member
Mrs Muradja PEPIĆ	GIG	Assembly Member
Mr Sadik IDRIZI	SDA	Assembly Member
Usmen BALDŽI	SDA	Assembly Member

Source: Political Parties

The three compulsory committees (Policy & Finance, Mediation and Communities) were formed immediately after the constitution of the MA and later appointed four other committees including the Municipal Statute Committee, the Committee for Elementary Natural Adversities, a Health Board, and a sub-committee for personnel. The Health Board excluded one of its (Gorani) members from its activities. A Municipal Community Office is also open. At present it is centrally funded, and from 2003 it will be funded at the municipal level.

Table 2.2: Municipal Assembly Committees

Committee	Chairperson / Affiliation	Party
Policy & Finance	Mr Halim SHEMSIDINI	LDK
Mediation	Mr Ibrahim GASHI	PDK
Communities	Mr Sadik IDRIZI	SDA
Municipal Statute	Hilmi DAUTI	LDK
Elementary Natural Adversities	Kamber KAMBERI	SDA
Health Board	Samet KRASNIQI	LDK
Personnel (Sub-committee)	Shaban HALIMI	LDK

Source: OSCE Satellite Office Dragash/Dragaš

The MA follows UNMIK regulations and agreements are made to ensure municipal activities are divided fairly between both Gora and Opoja. However, it is the Board of Directors that effectively constitutes the core of municipal life. There are 10 members and a Chief Executive Officer who chairs the weekly Board of Directors meetings. The Gorani are represented only with two director posts despite the estimated 30% share of the population.

Table 2.3: Chief Executive Officer, Board of Directors and Municipal Departments

Director	Municipal Department (incl. community office, if any)	Professional Background	Affiliation, if any
Shaban HALIMI	Chief Executive Officer	Economist	LDK
Beqir RASHITI	General Administration & Budget	Economist	PDK
Sehadin BEQIRI	Community Office	Lawyer	GIG
Samet KRASNIQI	Economy & Finance	Economist	LDK
Bexhet XHELADINI	Health & Social Welfare	Doctor	LDK
Muharrem QAFLEQI	Science, Culture, Youth & Sport	History Teacher	LDK
Selajdin TAFILI	Education, Democratisation & Media	Albanian Teacher	NONE
Samet SHYQERIU	Civil Safety & Emergency Relief	Economist	LDK
Irfan IBRAHIMI	Reconstruction, Development, Planning & Environment	Teacher	SDA
Sefik FEJZA	Urbanism & Communal Operations	Lawyer	NONE
Meni MELEQI	Geodesy & Cadastre	Lawyer	NONE

Source: OSCE Satellite Office Dragash/Dragaš

3. Political Parties

A multiparty political system is beginning to develop in Dragash/Dragaš. The LDK has been present in Dragash/Dragaš since the 1990s as part of the national movement and holds majority support from the Kosovo Albanian population. The party's roots are still strong in Opoja villages, as many members are actively involved in civil society and it is well respected in the municipality. The PDK continues to gain much of its popularity from its former post-conflict self-appointed structure in Dragash/Dragaš.

In the past, the Gorani were represented by two political entities, the SDA that has a pro-Bosnian attitude and the GIG. GIG exists as a citizens' initiative rather than a political party. The SDA has its roots in the Muslim community of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the ancient history of the Bogomil Church. In the past, it largely focused on promoting the Bosniak language to ensure its continued existence. GIG and SDA formed a coalition, Vatan, ahead of the 17 November 2001 Kosovo Assembly Election to pool their support.

Table 3.1: Political Parties

Party	Municipal branch leader	Kosovo-wide leader	Vote in Mun. Elect.	Seats in MA
Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK)	Halim SHEMSIDINI	Ibrahim RUGOVA	43.4% (6509)	10
Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK)	Mitat FEJZA	Hashim THAQI	28.9% (4324)	6
Gora Citizens' Initiative (GIG)	Rustem IBIŠI	Rustem IBIŠI	11.9% (1789)	3
Party for Democratic Action (SDA)	Sadik IDRIZI	Numan BALIĆ	11.3% (1701)	2
Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK)	Ilaz VEHAPI	Ramush HARADINAJ	2% (303)	0
PBK-D	Xhevket TAHIRI	Kajtaz FAZLIA	1.3% (195)	0
People's Movement of Kosovo (LPK)	Demir RESHITI	Emrush XHEMAJLI	(did not run)	0

Source: Political Parties

4. Local and International NGOs

Between September 1999 and the first quarter of 2001, a number of local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) were established in Dragash/Dragaš. At first, NGOs focused on humanitarian aid and on women's issues, but have more recently diversified their focus, including reconstruction and social and economic development issues. Increased integration projects for the Gora and Opoja communities have started. Immediately after the 1999 conflict, several International NGOs arrived in the area to supply humanitarian aid. Later, they focused on reconstruction and development programmes, establishing links with local NGOs to act as their implementing partners. However, all except two international NGO, FINCA and Forum, have left. FINCA now only visits Dragash/Dragaš once a week.

OSCE opened a Community Centre in the Gora village of Globočica/Glloboçicë in 2001. It acted as an open space where the members of the community could meet and participate in different activities in an area where there was little civic organisation and poor interethnic relations. In spring 2002, the Community Centre was moved to the cultural house in Dragash/Dragaš town where the German NGO Forum/ZFD also has a youth centre. Together, they work to encourage confidence building and initiatives within the community. The cultural house provides resources and services to both communities, such as specialised training and counselling.

Table 4.1: Local NGOs based in the Municipality

Name	Main focus	Contact Person (phone / fax / e-mail)
ATLANTIC CLUB	Supporting Gorani community	Ahmet JAMINI or Fejzo KAMBERI, phone: 81 312/313
DORA E NDIHMES [Hand of Help]	Food distribution; ecology	Selami BEHLULI: 044 200 919

		Hysmen BALDZI : 044 228 781
DORA E SHPRESA (Hand of Hope)	Women	Sinavere SPAHIU / Merita SKENDERI / Siba BRENOLI: 81 876
EMIN DURAKU	Sports; youth activities	VARIOUS: 81 548
FLAKA	Gender issues	Sebahate KURTESHI: 81 661/ M: 044 190 726
HANDIKOS	Integration of handicapped into society	Bexhet XHELADINI: 81 349 / M: 044 119 901
HUMANA EKOLOGIJA DRAGAS/H (HED)	Environmental protection	Alijah ABDI or Mysen HALILI
KLA VETERANS ASSOCIATION	War veteran support	Hajret MISINI
LIDHJA E SPORTEVE	Reconciliation through sport	Mitat BOJAXHIU, M: 044 203 695
MEMLECET	Education	Gazmend TAIROVCI
MERAK	Cultural activities	Nuhija TAIROVCI
MESHTEKNA	Micro-Credit / Small business	Islam SALLAHU, M: 044 201 043/044 203 738, meshtekna@yahoo.it
MOTHER TERESA SOCIETY	Distribution of humanitarian aid	Fadil RESHITI/Afrim SHYQERIU, M: 044 203 709
KOSOVO RED CROSS (Municipal Arm)	Humanitarian aid	Jeton RAMADANI: 81 425 / M: 044 200 920
SKORDOS MONS [multi-coloured mountain top]	Humanitarian aid; economic reconstruction	Djunajder BOJDA: 81 824
SARA	Gender issues	Dashurije SAHITI dashurjeshahiti@hotmail.com (infrequently)
THESARI	Cultural activities	Demir RESHITI, M: 044 244 900 demireshiti@hotmail.com demireshiti@yahoo.com
VATAN	Humanitarian aid	Arif KUSI

Source: Individual NGOs

Table 4.2: International NGOs based in the Municipality

Name	Main focus	Contact Person (phone / fax / e-mail)
FINCA	Micro-Credit	Hezer SHATRI T/F: 029 25 062 M: 044 218 626
Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst - Forum/ZFD	Youth activities	Agnes Berkmeier, agnes.berkmeier@web.de

5. Other Civilian International Presence

The UN Civil Administration (UNCA) arrived in Dragash/Dragaš during August 1999 and currently there are seven international staff members that support the work of the MA. The OSCE Office became operational in October 1999 and currently consists of 2 international and 10 national staff members. The separate European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) is not based in Dragash/Dragaš, but still monitors the general situation in the municipality from its office in Prizren/Prizren. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) opened an office in April 2001 in response to the influx of refugees from fYRoM and they are also based in Prizren/Prizren.

Other agencies and organisations visit, often funding projects in conjunction with the municipality, principally focused on infrastructure reconstruction and economic development. USAID financed the local radio, and the Norwegian Refugee Council developed a human Rights protection programme. Mercy Corps helped to set the municipal bee-keeping association in 2001, and the Swiss Development Corporation is this year funding the establishment of two milk collection points in Gora at Restelicë/Restelica and Krushe/Kruševo.

Table 5.1: The Pillars

Name	Number of Staff (international; national)	Contact Person	Title	Phone / Fax / Email
UNMIK	7 International; 103 National	Vladimir Gromov	Municipal Administrator	(029) 81 060
OSCE Satellite Office Community Centre	2 International; 10 National 2 National (Community Centre)	Hans Bochove Latif Renda	Head Manager	(029) 81 409 / (044) 500 243 through (029) 81 351

Source: Individual Offices

6. Religion and Places of Worship

Both the Gorani and the Kosovo Albanians in the municipality are of the Islamic faith. Due to an insufficient number of imams, one Kosovo Albanian imam is based in Brod. In Dragash/Dragaš town the attendance at the mosque includes both communities. The imams are generally not actively engaged in current issues and there are no overt signs of political influence within the religious community.

There are 39 mosques in Dragash/Dragaš municipality, none of which were destroyed during the conflict. The number of mosques is nearly equal in the Gora and Opoja areas.

Table 6.1: Primary Religious Leaders

Name	Title	Religious Organisation
Agim Rexhepi	Imam	Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš
Naili Halimi	Imam	Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš
Dzafer Fejziu	Imam	Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš

Source: Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš

Table 6.2: Primary Mosques, Churches, Cultural Institutions etc.

Type of Building	Towns/Places
Mosques	Dragash/Dragaš centre, 20 mosques in Gora, 19 in Opoja

Source: Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš

The process of reviving pre-conflict cultural institutions is ongoing, as few villages have been able to resume activities in their cultural houses, due to lack of funds. However, some cultural associations have continued their activities, such as an association that has continued its music and dancing training. A literary club, Luigi Gurakuqi, is present in the Opoja area but is not very active due to financial constraints.

7. Media

There are no local daily newspapers, although the literary club Luigi Gurakuqi produces a periodical Kosovo Albanian newspaper, Sharri. There are about 6 editions a year. In addition, the local Youth Democratic Forum periodically produces an Albanian language paper Pulis Rinor and in the Gora area, a monthly newspaper, Alem, is produced in the Bosniak language.

The local radio station, Radio Sharri, is the new face of the former state-owned radio, Radio Gora. They continued to broadcast due to international financial support. The German government, through German KFOR, has supplied it with equipment and funding. It broadcasts in the Albanian language and has a small Gorani language component, consisting of music. Radio Sharri employs eight staff, one of whom is Gorani. The radio station has faced social opposition in becoming an independent media entity, though it has recently been registered as a private business. There is another low-powered radio station in the Gorani village Restelica, Radio Bambus, which only broadcasts music.

There are several correspondents from the Prishtinë/Priština-based newspapers in the municipality, and have established a Journalists' Association. There is no local TV station.

Table 7.1: List of Primary Radio Stations and Newspapers in the Municipality

Name of Media	Type of Media (newspaper; radio, etc.)	Editor/Correspondent	Language of Programmes
Radio Sharri	Radio	Director, Qamil Kolloni	Kosovo Albanian; Gorani
Radio Bambus	Radio	Director, Nezim Hodza	Gorani
Youth Pulse	Newspaper	Editor, Mirsad Kuteli	Kosovo Albanian
Alem	Newspaper	Editor, Sadik Idrizi	Gorani

Source: OSCE Satellite Office Dragash/Dragaš

8. Judicial System

The Municipal Court and the Minor Offences Court were put in place by UNMIK on 1 January 2000. The regional jail in Prizren/Prizren holds convicted persons.

In 2001, the Minor Offence Court heard 1,523 cases – by 1 April 2002 only 23 were pending. Most cases typically constitute investigation into the illegal cutting of firewood, or theft. Illegal border crossings were handled at this level until June 2001, but have since been passed to a higher court in Prizren/Prizren. There is no prosecutor in the municipality, but there are 7 judges and 30 court support staff. Only one judge and four support staff are Gorani.

Table 8.1: Judges

Name	Title	Ethnicity
Sefedin Bajraktari	President of Municipal Court	Kosovo Albanian
Naim Kurteshi	Municipal Court Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Fahri Tërshnjaku	Municipal Court Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Fazli Mušja	Municipal Court Judge	Gorani
Sebahate Kurteshi	President of Minor Offences Court	Kosovo Albanian
Beqri Vehapi	Minor Offence Court Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Samet Behluli	Minor Offence Court Judge	Kosovo Albanian

Source: Municipal Court, Dragash/Dragaš

9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

A Turkish battalion of 195 soldiers is based in Dragash/Dragaš as part of the German-led KFOR Multi-National Brigade South, headquartered in Prizren/Prizren. Permanent Turkish KFOR checkpoints are located at the entry of Dragash/Dragaš town, in Brod, Kruševo/Krushe, and the junction towards Brezne village. Generally, KFOR works to provide social and infrastructure assistance to the municipality.

German KFOR does not have a large visible presence in the municipality. In April 2002, they opened a CIMIC office in Dragash/Dragaš town to provide emergency relief and assistance to citizens in obtaining travel documents.

UNMIK Police have 45 international officers, though this number sometimes fluctuates. A sub-station opened in Kruševo/Krushe in April 2002 staffed by 3 UNMIK Police and 11 Kosovo Police Service (KPS) officers. Generally, a total of 65 KPS officers are allocated for the area.

Some of the major problems faced by KFOR and UNMIK Police are illegal woodcutting and illegal border crossing. Frequently, people cross the Kosovo-Albania border, steal property, and return unpunished. Illegal border crossing has become a cause for concern, especially since the fYRoM conflict of 2001 ended, thus subsequently reducing KFOR presence at the border.

The Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is based in Opoja, in the village of Zym/Zjum.

Table 9.1: Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

Name	Number of Police Officers, Soldiers, etc.	Ethnic Composition
UNMIK CivPol Commander	65	International
KPC Commander	39	Kosovo Albanian
KFOR Commander	200	Turkish
KPS Commander	43	27 Kosovo Albanian; 38 Gorani

Source: KFOR and UN Police in Dragash/Dragaš

10. Economics

Its poor agricultural resources and relative geographical isolation have meant that Dragash/Dragaš is one of the most underdeveloped regions of Kosovo. The economic situation in Dragash/Dragaš is very poor, dominated by a high rate of unemployment of over 80%. The main employers in the area are the municipality, UNMIK Police, former socially owned enterprises, and OSCE. An average civil servant salary is under 100 Euro per month, while those who work in international organisations earn over 500 Euro per month.

All major local companies were formerly state-run. The MA created a committee tasked with resolving ownership issues and efficient management. The original UNMIK strategy toward these public enterprises consisted of carrying out a process of commercialisation, but there were no foreign investors. Nevertheless, in spring 2002, the European Agency for Reconstruction funded Drateks, a large textile factory, previously, the biggest employer in the area with over 600 staff in the early 1990s. Now, there are only 64 employees. No other company is operating at full capacity. Sharr Prodimi, a grocer's chain and sheep breeding company, used to employ 230 people, but now employs 85, although 23 of these are on unpaid leave due to lack of activity. An agriculture programme run by World Food Program (WFP) has reduced most of its activity as well. The socially owned enterprises currently employ 16% of the municipal population.

The economic situation plays a key role in stability in the area, with most people, regardless of ethnicity, agreeing on the need for a better economic situation. Income generation projects are strongly needed in Dragash/Dragaš, for example micro-credit schemes have been successful here as they stimulated small-scale business.

At the start of 2001, a Businessman's Association of Sharri was constituted in Dragash/Dragaš with several entrepreneurs and businessmen, of both communities.

The municipal community office states that a total of 1,675 are in active employment. Of these, only 72 (4%) are women.

Table 10.1 Prominent Employers in the Region

Employer	Service/Products	Production ongoing?	Size of workforce
Drateks	Wool processing	Yes, limited	64
Sharr Prodimi	Grocer; sheep breeding	Yes, limited	85
Koritnik	Restaurant	Yes	37
5 October	Public utilities	Yes	30
Economia Pyjore	Forestry	Yes	29

Source: Director of Economy, Finance, Business and Commerce, Dragash/Dragaš municipality

11. Infrastructure

The municipality is mountainous and therefore has related infrastructure problems, including access to villages. While this part of Kosovo did not suffer much damage during the conflict, its infrastructure was in need of overhaul.

Roads, in particular in the Žur/Zhur–Dragash/Dragaš, Dragash/Dragaš–Brod, and Dragash/Dragaš–Restelica/Restelicë villages require urgent improvement for the social-economic development of the area. Travel between villages largely relies on foot or horse-drawn wagons. Bus connections between Dragash/Dragaš town and the Opoja continue to improve, but services to Gora are not organised. There is a free school bus service provided by the municipality along one Gora route. Taxi services do exist.

Electricity is partly supplied by a hydroelectric plant in Dikance/Dikancë and currently power is only lost for a few hours a day. There are also plans to construct a new hydropower station at Žur/Zhur.

Most villages of Dragash/Dragaš have no phone connection, although the system in the town itself has improved since 2001. Mobile phone coverage is also improving.

Drinking water remains a problem, with several villages still without any water supply at all. Project proposals have been drawn up by the municipality and presented to several donors, but have yet to receive funding. Nevertheless, municipality priority projects for 2002 show a shift in the initial 1999 focus on roads to the rehabilitation of water supply systems.

12. Social Services, Health, and Education

Social Services:

UNMIK started an Emergency Assistance Financial Programme in November 1999 to assist individuals in three categories – pensioners over 70, single parent households, and persons with disabilities. About 2,500 individuals receive this assistance. The municipal Social Welfare Centre handles all cases.

Health:

Dragash/Dragaš municipality has 14 doctors of whom six are Kosovo Albanian and eight are Gorani, and seven dentists of whom four are Kosovo Albanian and three are Gorani. There is 1 hospital in Dragash/Dragaš with 12 other health clinics in Gora (2 health centres and 5 *ambulantas*) and in Opoja (3 health centres and 2 *ambulantas*). The hospital in Dragash/Dragaš is the principal municipal health centre. It employs 100 people, 67 Kosovo Albanians and 33 Gorani of which include three Kosovo Albanians and three Gorani doctors, as well as two Kosovo Albanian and two Gorani dentists. Because of where the doctors live, six Gora villages have access to basic health services, though more serious cases require travel to Dragash/Dragaš or Prizren. Opoja has one in Bresanë/Brodosavce village.

Principal problems include the lack of an efficient salary system, lack of medicine, obsolete equipment, and lack of on-the-job training for personnel. The lack of equipment has to some extent been helped by donations, including the German organisation Die Johanniter who refurbished the Bresanë/Brodosavce clinic and donated an ambulance. Assistance has also been received from German KFOR, UNHCR, and Mediciens Sans Frontieres.

In the Gora area, it is hoped that a new *ambulanta* will be constructed in Brod in 2002, and that the old health centre in Rapča will be rebuilt. In Opoja, the newly renovated Bellobrad family health centre opened in May 2002. Improvement of municipal health facilities is a community priority and the municipal health department has been active in addressing this. Further construction requires external investment.

Education:

Dragash/Dragaš municipality has 35 primary schools, 23 being satellite schools in remote villages for grades 1-4. Primary education, grades 1-8, are served by 12 schools – 6 for Kosovo Albanian children in Opoja Kosovo Albania, 5 for Gorani children and 1 multi-ethnic school in Dragash/Dragaš town. The only secondary school is multi-ethnic and based in Dragash/Dragaš town, having 900 pupils (734 Kosovo Albanian and 166 Gorani). Overall, 25% of school pupils are female. In the two multi-ethnic schools, classes are segregated according to ethnicity, language, and gender, but there is opportunity for pupils to mix in sports lessons, English language lessons, and free time.

In July 2001, the Department of Education and Science began the process of replacing unqualified teachers with more qualified ones. This process remains the largest challenge facing education in Dragash/Dragaš as it is estimated that 93 of the 370 primary school teachers, or 25%, are not properly qualified.

Three additional challenges face the education system in the municipality. First, as the municipality is spread over a large area, people have to travel long distances to get to school and, especially in winter, travel is often difficult. Second, basic school facilities and educational materials are lacking or out of date. Third, it is estimated that 35% of teachers' of 150 Euro per month salaries are spent on transport. Notably, Gorani teachers receive salaries from Belgrade in addition to their UNMIK salaries.

The total number of employees within the educational system of Dragash/Dragaš municipality is 457, of these there are 286 Kosovo Albanian (63%) and 170 Gorani (37%). Dragash/Dragaš has no female teachers.

(Source: Dragash/Dragaš municipality)