

Kaçanik/Kaçanik

April 2008

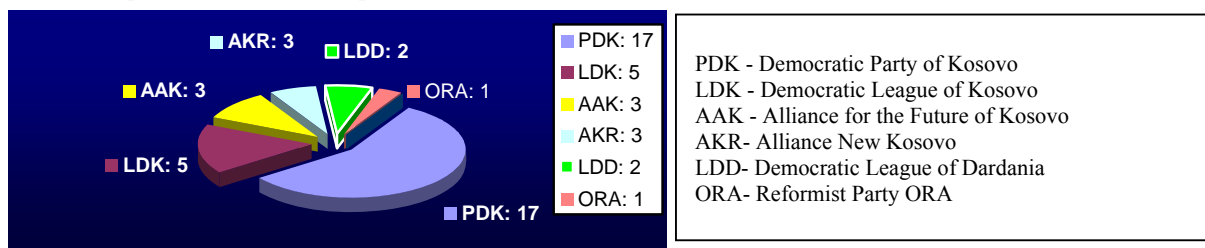
1. Area and Population

- Kačanik/Kaçanik municipality is located in south-eastern Kosovo and stretches along the main road between Prishtinë/Priština and Skopje, the capital of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The municipality covers 211 square kilometres and consists of one town (Kačanik/Kaçanik) and 31 villages. The main road to the border of FYROM, as well as local roads are in poor condition. The water supply is generally good but electricity supply is often short of needed. Since April 2007, the land line for telephone communication has been digitalized. Around 90 percent of the municipality is also covered by mobile phone network.
- The population is approximately 43,000, out of which approximately 10,000 people reside in the Pilot Municipal Unit Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković. With the exception of eight Roma, Kačanik/Kaçanik municipality is ethnically homogeneous Kosovo Albanian. In recent years, several Go-and-See/Inform visits for the Kosovo Serb and Roma IDPs and refugees were organised. [Source: UNHCR]

2. Governing Structures

• Legislative

The Municipal Assembly is composed of 31 members elected in the November 2007 Elections.



Mr. Xhabir Zharku (PDK) was elected Mayor in the second round of mayoral elections in December 2007. He is also a Chairperson of the Municipal Assembly. Mr. Xhelal Gashi (PDK) was appointed Vice Chairperson of the Municipal Assembly in January 2008.

• Executive

Directors of Health and Social Welfare, Education and Culture, Finance, Economy and Development were appointed by the Mayor and approved by Municipal Assembly in January 2008. The process for selection of the Head of Municipal Administration and Personnel has been concluded in March 2008 and the incumbent appointed by the Municipal Assembly.

• Judiciary

Kaçanik/Kaçanik Municipality has a Municipal Court (three Kosovo Albanian judges), which operates under the Prishtinë/Priština District Court, and a Minor Offences Court (one Kosovo Albanian judge).

• Security Presence

Due to the municipality's location at the border with FYROM, the Kosovo Police Service in Kačanik/Kaçanik is divided into three departments: one is based in the town of Kačanik/Kaçanik and two at the border crossings of Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković and Gilloboçicë/Globočica. KPS has been working independently from UNMIK Police since January 2003 and currently has 64 Kosovo Albanian police officers, out of which two are female (there are no minorities). The two departments at the border crossings assist in border traffic control while the one in town deals with crime issues except for smuggling, which comes under the department in Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković. As to the international military presence, while the municipality liaises with the US KFOR, Polish and Ukrainian KFOR are responsible for traffic control.

3. Political Overview

In the last municipal elections in November 2007, some 49 per cent of registered voters cast their ballots in Kačanik/Kaçanik municipality (including the Pilot Municipal Unit Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković). The Municipal Assembly has established Policy and Finance, Community and Mediation Committees in January 2008 and other four standing committees in March 2008. The Communities Committee and Mediation Committee are chaired by representatives of opposition parties (LDD and ORA), involving also civil society representatives as regular members.

4. Economy

The largest employers in Kaçanik/Kaçanik are the enterprises New Lepenci and Silcapor, producers of construction materials which have been privatised in 2005 and 2006, respectively. There are also some 1,051 family-run shops and small businesses registered and operating in the municipality (including Pilot Municipal Unit Hani i Elezit/Đeneral Janković). Nevertheless, the majority of the population works in the agriculture sector or is unemployed.

5. Public Services

• Health

The health centre in Kaçanik/Kaçanik town provides first aid and general medical services including a maternity ward. Besides the health centre, there are nine health stations (*ambulantas*) in the villages surrounding the town which offer primary health care services. [Source: Municipal Department for Health and Social Welfare]

• Education

One pre-primary school institution serves some 562 pupils. Ten primary schools with around 6,300 students and 554 teachers are operational in Kaçanik/Kaçanik municipality as well as two secondary schools: one general and one professional (vocational studies), with around 1,700 students in total. The majority of the schools were reconstructed after the 1999 conflict. [Source: Municipal Department for Education].

6. Map of the Region

Kaçanik / Kaçanik

