

Deçan/Deçane

March 2009

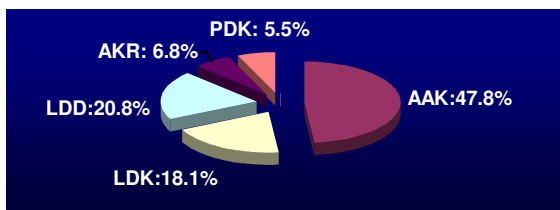
1. Area and population

- Deçan/Deçane municipality is located at the crossroads of Gjakovë/Đakovica, Junik and Pejë/Peć. It is a mountainous area, with borders both to Montenegro and Albania. There is a total of 36 villages within the municipality. The territory of the municipality is 371 km².
- During the 1998-1999 conflict, Deçan/Deçane was one of the strongholds of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and subsequently suffered a high rate of infrastructure destruction by the Serbian military and paramilitary forces. Much reconstruction has taken place with the assistance of the international agencies and support from the Kosovo Albanian diaspora.
- It is estimated that more than 40,000 people live in the municipality. The vast majority of the population is Kosovo Albanian, with small minority groups of Kosovo Bosniaks (0.14 percent) and Kosovo Egyptians and Roma (0.05 percent). The non-Albanian communities are mainly residing in the villages of Baballoq/Babaloć, Dubovik/Dubovik, Glllogjan/Glodane, Gramaqel/Gramoćelj, Irzniq/Irznici, Pozhar/Požar, Rastavicë/Rastavica, Shaptelj/Šaptelj, Prapaqan/Papraçane and there is a Serb Orthodox clergy in the Visoki Deçani Monastery. Following the displacement of Kosovo Serb population during the conflict, only two Kosovo Serbs have so far returned to their places of origin in Deçan/Deçane town.
- The main religious buildings are the Visoki Deçani Monastery, the Mosque of Çok in Deçan/Deçane, the Mosque of Carrabreg/Crnobreg, and the Mosque of Prilep/Prejlep. In 2004, the Visoki Deçani Monastery was included in the UNESCO's World Heritage List and in 2006, it was placed on the UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger. Its religious, historic and artistic significance is of an extraordinary importance.

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The number of seats in the municipal assembly is 31. The Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) historically had strong support in the municipality and has always had the biggest representation in the municipal assembly. In November 2007, Mr. Musë Berisha (AAK) was elected the mayor of the municipality.



AAK	– Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
LDK	– Democratic League of Kosovo
LDD	– Democratic League of Dardania
PDK	– Democratic Party of Kosovo
AKR	– Alliance New Kosovo

• Executive

The board of directors consists of six members, all AAK members. Former chief executive officer, Mr. Halil Tolaj (AAK) has been appointed director of administration and personnel. The municipal civil service consists of nine departments with a total of 104 employees.

• Judiciary

Deçan/Deçane municipality has a municipal court which deals with civil and criminal cases, and a minor offences court which is competent to adjudicate criminal cases for which prescribed punishment is up to two months of imprisonment. The municipal court has four judges while the minor offences court has three judges.

• Security presence

There is a police station in Deçan/Deçane town, which includes a communities police unit. Italian KFOR has a base in Deçan/Deçane with two checkpoints near the Visoki Deçani Monastery. Both KFOR and the Kosovo police have a good relationship with the municipal leadership and participate regularly in meetings of the municipal communities safety council.

3. Political overview

The main political parties in Kosovo are represented in the municipal assembly. After the November 2007 municipal elections, the seats in the municipal assembly are allocated as follows: AAK 15 seats, LDK 6 seats, LDD 6 seats, AKR 2 seats, and PDK 2 seats. No official coalitions have been established yet.

4. Economy

- Agriculture is the main sector of economy in the municipality, involving 65% of the population. Most pre-conflict socially owned enterprises have closed down after the conflict, which has led to a high level of unemployment, especially affecting the youth. Most of the small existing private enterprises focus their activities on services and manufacturing.

5. Public services

- **Health**

With financial support of the Japanese Red Cross, in 2001, a health centre was established in Deçan/Deçane. In addition, an emergency room has recently been established with financial support provided by the Italian KFOR. Also, a new branch of the mental health centre opened with the support of the Kosovo ministry of labour and social welfare. In addition, there are six primary healthcare facilities in the main villages of the municipality. All non-Albanian residents in the municipality have complete access to the health facilities. The health sector employs 123 persons.

- **Education**

Around 10,000 pupils attend the schools in this municipality, out of which approximately 7,800 are pupils in 16 elementary schools and 2,200 in three secondary schools. The elementary schools employ 384 teachers while 120 teachers are working in the secondary schools. The total number of students from non-Albanian communities is 74, of which 17 Kosovo Bosniak and 57 Kosovo Roma and Egyptians. These students are integrated in the educational system in Deçan/Deçane Municipality. There are several students from the Kosovo Bosniak community attending the secondary school in Pejë/Peć.

7. Map of the region

Deçan / Decane

