

## Leposavić/Leposaviq

April 2008

### 1. Area and Population

● Leposavić/Leposaviq Municipality is the most northern municipality in Kosovo, situated in the Ibar River Valley north of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. The municipality consists of 72 villages with an area of 750 km<sup>2</sup>. Basic infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water supplies are generally in poor condition. However, thanks to foreign and Serbian governments' assistance, some renovations have been recently made. Energy is coming from Serbia proper.

● According to the estimates from the UNHCR and the OSCE, Leposavić/Leposaviq has a population of approximately 18,600. Kosovo Serbs constitute a large majority (18,000), but small numbers of other communities are also present. This includes approximately 200 Kosovo Albanians concentrated in the three southern villages of Koshutovë/Košutovo, Bisticë e Shalës/Šaljska Bistrica and Cerajë/Ceranje, Kosovo Bosniaks (240) and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian including internally displaced persons (250). The municipality began receiving internally displaced persons (IDPs) from all over Kosovo as of June 1999, and is now host to 2,500 IDPs, of which 203 are Roma. Approximately half the Roma IDPs came from the "Roma Mahalla" in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica town and have returned to their place of origin as beneficiaries of Roma Mahalla Project. The majority of Kosovo Serb IDPs live in private accommodation and/or with relatives. Others live in collective centres in the town of Leposavić/Leposaviq and settlements of Lešak/Leshak, and Sočanica/Sočanice. The municipal leadership has actively participated in the return process to three Albanian villages where approximately 200 Kosovo Albanians returned to their reconstructed homes. [Source: UN DCA, Municipality]

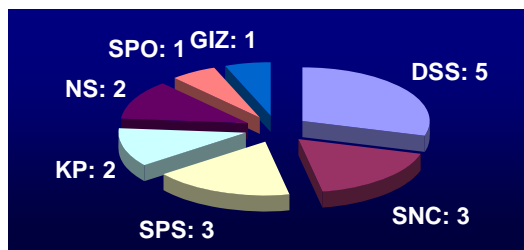
● Leposavić/Leposaviq hosts some cultural and educational institutions originally situated in Prishtinë/Priština, such as "Institute for Serbian Culture" and the "Institute for Protection of Cultural Heritage".

● The municipal website is: [www.leposavic.org](http://www.leposavic.org)

### 2. Governing Structures

#### ● Legislative

The Municipal Assembly comprises 17 members elected after October 2002 Municipal Elections. The results of the last elections held in November 2007 were not certified by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General, due to the boycott by the Kosovo Serb majority. Since 18 December 2007, following UN Executive Decision 2007/62, the incumbent members of the Municipal Assembly were appointed to constitute a new Municipal Assembly for a renewable period of six months. There is no Kosovo Albanian representative in the Assembly. The Municipal Assembly President, Mr. Velimir Bojović, member of the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS) was also provisionally appointed as Mayor for a renewable period of six months. The Municipal Community Office (MCO) is managed by Kosovo Albanian who is actively engaged in the returns process to Leposavić/q and provision of services to minority communities. Since 17 February 2008 the Head of MCO is not coming to his office in the municipality although he is in regular telephone contacts with some municipal officials.



DSS - Democratic Party of Serbia  
SNC - Serb National Council  
SPS - Socialist Party of Serbia  
KP - Coalition Return  
NS - New Serbia  
SPO - Serb Renewal Movement  
GIZ - Citizens' Initiative Together

#### ● Executive

There are 97 employees working in municipal administration in different departments. The CEO is Mr. Milan Radosavljevic, an economist.

#### ● Judiciary

Since January 2003 until 17 February 2008, UNMIK was operating the Municipal Court and Minor Offences Court in Leposavić/Leposaviq covering the municipal region with Prosecutors being based in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. Since the declaration of independence all Kosovo Serb employees of the UNMIK court

resigned from their positions and have been incorporated in to the existing parallel Serbian court. UNMIK court is not functioning since then. Serbian parallel court office, which was reopened mid 2003 and has been regarded as a symbol of re-strengthening of the Serbian authority is still functioning.

● **Security Presence**

The Police Station in Leposavić/Leposaviq has 53 Kosovo Police Service officers (52 Kosovo Serbs and one Bosniak) and two UNMIK Police officers. Since 17 February 2008 the station is under UNMIK command only.

**3. Political Overview**

The political parties of Leposavić/Leposaviq are slightly more moderate when compared to other northern municipalities. Currently, 12 Kosovo Serb political parties have their branches in Leposavić/Leposaviq. In June 2006, the municipality terminated its cooperation with the Kosovo Government and since then operates within the institutional framework of the Republic of Serbia.

**4. Economy**

Almost all industrial facilities are closed or work with reduced capacity. The unemployment rate is high, and it has considerably increased due to the closing down of most of the Trepca conglomerate facilities. The municipality is rich in natural and human resources but current political circumstances block all the potentials. The municipality adopted the Development Agenda 2006–2009, in cooperation with UNOPS office and with the support of UNMIK and the Italian Government, which foresees improvement in the local economy.

**5. Public Services**

● **Health**

The Health Centre in Leposavić/Leposaviq town provides an array of services, including internal medicine, gynaecology, psychiatry and dental care. The Centre employs 30 doctors, 96 nurses and 37 support staff. It also has clinics (*ambulantitas*) in the villages of Sočanica, Lešak, Vračevo and Belo Brdo. However, they lack medical supplies and equipment, and there is also a problem of access in remote areas especially for the elderly. [Source: Municipality; UN DCA]

● **Education**

The municipality has four primary schools with 1,581 students and 201 teachers (one school located in a village where Kosovo Albanians are living) and two secondary schools with 566 students and 127 teachers. Besides, there are two faculties, Pedagogical and Physical, with 302 and 517 students respectively. There is also the Economics College with 580 students. They are part of the Prishtinë/Priština University relocated to Mitrovicë/Mitrovica North since 1999 and their curricula is based on the Serbian education system. All employees working in the municipal education sector are paid by the Serbian Ministry of Education, renouncing the salary from the Kosovo Government on a directive issued by the Serbian Government’s Coordination Centre for Kosovo. [Source: Municipality; UN DCA]

**6. Map of the region**

Leposaviq / Leposavić

