

Prishtinë/ Priština

April 2008

1. Area and Population

• Prishtinë/Priština Municipality is located in the central part of Kosovo covering an area of 572 km². It is the administrative, political, economic and cultural centre of Kosovo and the most populous municipality. The huge influx of people to Prishtinë/Priština after the 1999 conflict from other parts of Kosovo placed tremendous pressure on the existing infrastructure in the municipality, from accommodation to public services to roads. The Municipality has also faced serious difficulties with the provisions of water and electricity. Meanwhile, the telecommunication situation is rather good; the landline network has been upgraded and the mobile networks are well operational.

Prishtinë/Priština also comprises the village of Gračanica/Gračanice which is the cultural centre of Kosovo Serbs living in the central part of Kosovo. Gračanica/Gračanice hosts a historic monastery which is home to a prominent community and religious leader, Bishop Artemije. Both the Prishtinë/Priština municipality and the Serbian “parallel” structures carry out administrative functions in Gračanica/Gračanice. “Parallel” Serbian structures remain in the following areas: Education, Health Sector, Administration and Court.

• The estimated total population is approximately 500,000. It has significantly increased since the end of the 1999 conflict. However, estimates on the total population of Prishtinë/Priština vary considerably. According to UNMIK, the vast majority are Kosovo Albanians (approx. 475,000); the estimated number of minority communities in 2005 was 12,510 Kosovo Serbs, 4,550 Ashkali and Roma, and 450 Bosniaks and Gorani. Other minority communities, including Turks, amount to approximately 3,950. [Source: 2007 Municipal Returns Strategy of Prishtinë/Priština Municipality]

• According to UNHCR, 1,150 Kosovo Serb, 292 Roma and 296 Ashkali internally displaced people (IDPs) have returned to the municipality since 2000. Most of them were spontaneous returns. However, the March 2004 riots not only stopped the process of returns but also forced a large number of remaining urban Kosovo Serbs to leave their home. In Gračanica/Gračanice, there are currently two collective centres inhabited by Kosovo Serb IDPs.

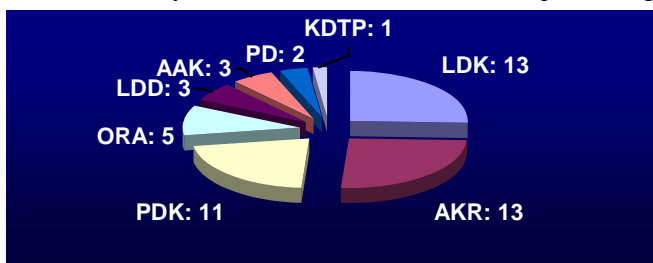
• Prishtinë/Priština has houses of worship for the Islam, Serbian Orthodox and Catholic religions. Major religious landmarks include the Imperial (Fatih) Mosque built in 1461 by the Turkish Sultan Mehmet II Fatih, the 13th century Gračanica Serbian Orthodox church and monastery, and the Catholic Church in the Ulpiana district.

• Municipal website: www.prishtina-komuna.org

2. Governing Structures

• Legislative

The Municipal Assembly comprises 51 members elected after the November 2007 Municipal Elections. There is only one Turkish member representing minority communities in the Assembly



LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
AKR- New Kosovo Alliance
PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
ORA – Reformist Party
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
LDD - Democratic Party of Dardania
PD - Justice Party,
KDTP - Turkish Democratic Party of Kosovo

• Executive

The municipal administration structure is made up of the Mayor and the Board of Directors. Mr. Isa Mustafa, the Mayor (LDK), was elected directly by Prishtinë/Priština citizens and he rivalled his opponent, Mr. Fatmir Limaj (PDK) in the runoff of 2007 Elections.

• Judiciary

Prishtinë/Priština has a Municipal Court (23 judges) with a Municipal Prosecutors’ Office (five prosecutors) and a Minor Offences Court (14 judges). In addition to those municipal institutions, the municipality hosts a District Court (12 judges) with a District Prosecutors’ Office (four prosecutors) as well as the Supreme Court of Kosovo, the Kosovo Prosecutors’ Office, the High Court of Minor Offences and the Commercial Court. [Source: Legal Office in Prishtinë/Priština Municipality]

• Security Presence

According to the 2007 Analysis Report on Police Activities in the Prishtinë/Priština Region, there are 1,500 Kosovo Police Service officers in nine stations, three substations and three regional units. As to the international military presence, Prishtinë/Priština Municipality is covered by the Irish KFOR Multinational Task Force Centre.

3. Political Overview

25 political parties have their headquarters in Prishtinë/Priština; additionally there are regional branches. LDK, AKR, and PDK are the most prominent powers in the municipality.

4. Economy

A wide range of economic activities take place in Prishtinë/Priština, including construction, agriculture, communication, trade and hotel industry. The area of Čaglavica/Çagllavicë has experienced a considerable increase of business activities. There are 8,735 registered businesses with a total of 75,089 employees. Furthermore, many efforts have been put to promote micro-credit schemes to further economic growth.

5. Public Services

• Health

The Health House of Prishtinë/Priština employs 83 general practitioners, 94 specialists, 428 nurses and technicians, and 168 administrative staff. Approximately 50,000 patients visit the Centre each month. At the Gračanica Health House, 124 medical and 270 non-medical staff work and approximately 150 patients visit the Health House per day. Residents belonging to Kosovo Serb and Roma communities are usually using parallel health care structures; depending on the nature of the pathology. In case of a serious one, they mostly opt to use the hospital in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica North. The access to the primary health care services is still difficult in the rural areas. Prishtinë/Priština also hosts the University Hospital where secondary and tertiary health care is provided by 3,600 staff. [Source: Chief Finance Officer of Prishtinë/Priština Municipality]

• Education

The Municipality has 37 primary schools; the total number of students is more than 33,575. In Prishtinë/Priština town, there are two schools where Turk and Bosniak students can be taught in their mother tongue. There are also 12 secondary schools with a total number of 12,406 students, focusing on general education (gymnasium) or specializations such as technical knowledge (including medical schools), business, agriculture or music. There is an extreme necessity for additional buildings, especially for secondary schools. In addition, pre-school education (nine schools with 1,600 children) and special education for disabled children are available in the Municipality. There are 13 schools in Serbian populated areas, out of which eight are secondary, four primary, and one pre-school. [Source: Education Department in Prishtinë/Priština Municipality]

6. Map of the Region

