

Prizren

April 2008

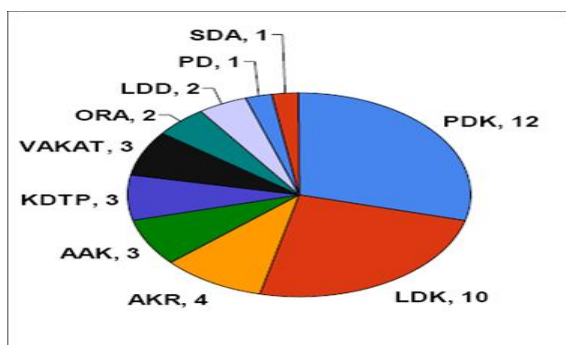
1. Area and Population

- Prizren Municipality is located in southern Kosovo and makes up approximately 6% of the total territory in Kosovo. Prizren town plays an important role in regional business and commerce due to its geographical proximity with Albania and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- Approximately 240,000 people live in the Prizren municipality, in both the town and the 76 villages scattered around it. In addition to the majority Kosovo Albanian population, it is home to large communities of Kosovo Bosniaks (22,000), Kosovo Turks (9,000 - excluding the Kosovo Turkish population living in the Pilot Municipal Unit of Mamuša/Mamushë/Mamuša) and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities (5,300). Likewise, a relatively small number of Kosovo Serbs (166) live in the villages, and a smaller number in Prizren town (30 individuals). [Source: Prizren Municipal Community Office, October 2007].
- Prizren is known for its ethnic diversity and enjoys a long tradition of tolerance and inter-ethnic cooperation. It is considered as the most culturally and ethnically heterogeneous municipality in Kosovo. The threat of ethnically motivated violence still exists, but contrary to other parts of Kosovo, the Serbian/Bosnian language is spoken freely in Prizren town and in the areas where Kosovo Serbs reside.

2. Governing Structures

• Legislative

The new Municipal Assembly composed of 41 members was elected on 17 November 2007. The Mayor is Ramadan Muja of the Democratic Party of Kosovo. Mr. Ercan Špat, of the Kosovo Democratic Turkish Party (former Deputy Municipal Assembly President) is the Vice-Chairperson and Mr. Ćemailj Kurtiši, of coalition VAKAT (former Additional Deputy Municipal Assembly President) the second Vice-Chairperson. The breakdown of party affiliation and seats are as follows:



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
AKR - Alliance New Kosovo
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
KDTP - Kosovo Democratic Turkish Party
Coalition VAKAT
ORA - Reformist Party
LDD - Democratic League of Dardania
PD - Justice Party
SDA - Democratic Action Party

• Executive

The Board of Directors is composed of 12 Directors, 10 of which were appointed by the Mayor on 16 January 2008, in consultation with the Municipal Assembly. Two more Directors (the Head of the Department of Administration and Personnel and the Head of the Municipal Community Office) are in the process to be recruited. Noteworthy, the current Board includes only one member of a minority community (the Director of Culture, Youth and Sports is a Kosovo Turk) and only one female Director.

• Judiciary

Prizren Municipality has one District Court, one Municipal Court and one Minor Offences Court, all located in town. The District and the Municipal Prosecutors also have premises in town. The District Court began functioning on 17 July 1999, with six judges and three prosecutors, while the Municipal Court and the Minor Offences Court opened on 20 January 2000.

• Security Presence

The Prizren police station has been transferred to Kosovo Police Service command in 2004. It is one of the largest police facilities in Kosovo. UNMIK Police Officers serve in a monitoring function. 229 police officers are operational in the municipality, belonging to all the ethnic communities (except Kosovo Serbs).

3. Political overview

Prizren political scene is very rich, with 10 political entities represented at the Municipal Assembly. The new majority in the Municipal Assembly is a coalition made up by the Democratic Party of Kosovo, the New

Kosovo Alliance, the Kosovo Democratic Turkish Party and coalition VAKAT.

4. Economy

The Economy of the municipality is based on agriculture, trade, construction and food processing, all private enterprises. Due to financial hardship, several companies and factories have closed and others have cut down on personnel numbers. This general economic stagnation contributes to a sustained rate of unemployment and poverty. There are three agricultural co-operatives in three villages. Most livestock breeding and agricultural production is private, informal, and small-scale. The last years have seen the opening of a few large supermarkets in Prizren town.

5. Public Services

• Health

There are 31 health houses and health points in Prizren municipality (town and rural areas) that employ 375 people (out of which 125 are doctors) as well as eight employees within the Municipal Directorate of Health. The only regional hospital in Prizren offers medical services for approximately 400,000 residents. The hospital employs 778 workers including 155 doctors and is equipped with emergency, intensive care units and donated ambulances. There are also 32 private health houses and laboratories, 22 dental health houses and 19 pharmacies in the municipality. Minority communities, including Kosovo Serbs, have equal access to the health care system of Prizren municipality. Additionally, Kosovo Serbs have access to the parallel structures in Mušnikovo/Mushnikovë village. In case of complicated sickness/deceases, the Serbs travel to Štrpce/Shtërpçë or Mitrovica/Mitrovicë. In April 2006, the Board of Directors adopted a decision to place new signs in the three official languages (Albanian, Serbian/Bosnian and Turkish) on all health facilities managed by the Municipality.

• Education

The municipality has 42 primary and five secondary schools. There are two special schools, one for the hearing impaired and another one for the mentally challenged. There are two branches of Prishtinë/Priština University: the Faculty of Education and Information Technologies, offering lectures in Albanian, Bosnian and Turkish languages. Due to insufficient schools facilities, the schools operate in three shifts in Prizren town, while there are two shifts per day in the villages, on a rotating attendance schedule. There are 40.228 pupils attending primary and secondary education. In average, 50 pupils attend each class, where there should be only be 30-32 per classroom. The primary and secondary schools in the Municipality provide education in the Albanian, Bosnian and Turkish languages through separate Kosovo curricula. There are no Kosovo Serb pupils in the Municipality and no education is provided in Serbian.

6. Map of the Region

