

Vushtrri/Vučitrn

April 2008

1. Area and Population

- Vushtrri/Vučitrn Municipality is located north of Prishtinë/Priština and south of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica with a total area of 344 km². The municipality consists of 66 villages. Major roads are generally in good conditions but the secondary roads need an overhaul. Both power and water supplies are quite problematic with a few-hour cuts being a daily occurrence.

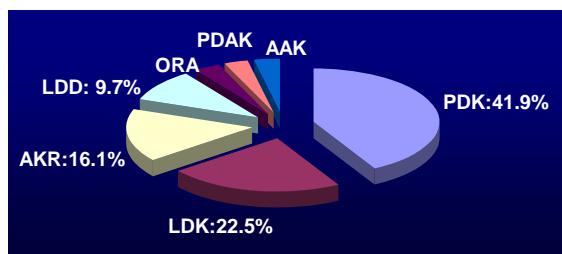
- The estimated total population is 102,600. Kosovo Albanians make 95% of the population while the other 5% is predominantly Kosovo Serb population with approximately 4,000 Kosovo Serbs living in Gojbulje/Gojbulë, Priluzje/Prelluzhë and Grace/Gracë. There is also Banjska/Bajskë which is a mixed village between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians. Other minority communities include Kosovo Turks, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian and Circassians.

During the March 2004 riot, 72 houses of Ashkali community were destroyed. So far 59 houses were rebuilt. In December, the 13 Ashkali houses left un-reconstructed have now been reconstructed by the Lutheran World Federation and the families have returned. No Kosovo Serbs have returned. Although the municipality has been actively engaged in the return process, many internally displaced persons (IDPs) claim it is unsafe to return. [Source: Municipal Returns Officer and the Municipal Working Group on Returns]

2. Governing Structures

• Legislative

The Municipal Assembly is comprised of 31 members from eight parties elected after the November 2007 Municipal Elections. The Mayor of the municipality, Mr. Bajram Mulaku, and the Vice Chairperson of the Municipal Assembly, Mr. Ferit Idrizi, are both from Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK)



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
BD - Democratic Union
LDD - Democratic League of Dardania
ORA - Reformist Party ORA
PD - Party of Justice
AKR - New Kosovo Alliance
AAK - Alliance for Future of Kosovo

• Executive

The Civil Administration is composed of eight directors and Municipal Communities Office. Six directors appointed by the Mayor are PDK affiliated, while one is from AKR. The Municipal Assembly, in accordance with regular procedures of filling the posts, has appointed the Acting Director of Administration and Personnel.

• Judiciary

In Vushtrri/Vučitrn there is a Municipal Court and a Minor Offences Court. The Municipal Court has five judges among which the Municipal Court President (Kosovo Albanian male), three Kosovo Albanian females, one Kosovo Serb female and one Kosovo Albanian male. Prosecutors are based in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and cover the region. The Minor Offences Court has a Kosovo Albanian male President and two Kosovo Albanian male judges.

• Security Presence

The Police Station has 151 KPS officers and two UNMIK Police officers. In February 2005, the police station and all operation competencies were handed over to the KPS and since then UNMIK police only maintains a monitoring function. There is a Police Sub-station in the Kosovo Serb village of Priluzje/Prelluzhë with seven Kosovo Serb and five Kosovo Albanian officers. As to the military presence, French KFOR is in charge of the municipality.

3. Political Overview

After the Municipal Elections of 26 October 2002, the political power shifted from the PDK to the LDK and since then LDK has been leading the municipality administratively and politically. After the dismissal of the LDK Municipal Assembly President in January 2004, the party's local branch split and the President and his supporters created a new party "Democratic Union". Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) was leading with 11 seats in Municipal Assembly, Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) followed with 10 seats, Democratic

Union (BD) with five seats, Justice Party (PD) and ORA have had one seat each. There was one seat held by an independent candidate.

After the Municipal Elections of November 2007, the PDK brought back its power lost in Municipal Elections of 2002. PDK is in coalition with AKR. PDK is leading with 13 seats, followed by LDK with seven, AKR three, LDD two, AAK two, BD two, ORA one, and PD with one seat.

4. Economy

Vushtrri/Vučitrn is predominantly agriculture-oriented. However, due to the lack of capital investment and slow privatization process, little economic development has been made, creating a big social problem of unemployment at roughly 80 percent. The local economy primarily consists of small enterprises such as family-owned shops and restaurants. Apart from these small businesses, the municipality is the main employer.

5. Public Services

● Health

The main health facility in Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality is the Hospital “Sheik Zayed.” It employs 216 people including 33 doctors and 148 nurses. The Centre provides wide range of services, including psychiatry, gynaecology and dental care. The hospital also has its health points located in 13 villages. The health services in the Kosovo Serb villages are provided in the Health House (Dom Zdravlja) located in Priluzje/Prelluzhë village and it also has outreach health points in Banjska/Bajskë, Grace/Gracë and Gojbulje/Gojbulë. [Source: Municipal Directorate of Health and Social Welfare]

● Education

There are 24 primary schools in the municipality with 1,151 teachers and 14,845 students. In the town, there are four secondary schools with 215 professors and 3,056 students. In the Kosovo Serb villages of Priluzje/Prelluzhë there is one secondary and one primary school and there is one primary school in Gojbulje/Gojbulë. Altogether they have 59 teachers and 524 students. [Source: Municipal Directorate of Education]

6. Map of the region

Vushtrri / Vuçitrn

