

Zvečan/Zveçan

April 2008

1. Area and Population

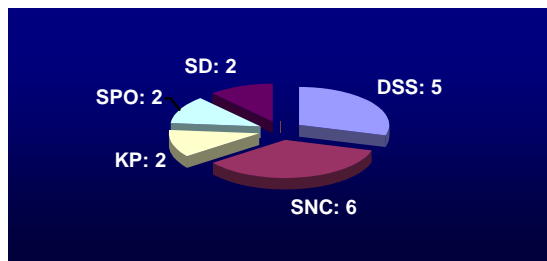
- Zvečan/Zveçan Municipality is located in the north of Kosovo, extending in a narrow corridor from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica to Sandžak in Serbia proper. The municipality consists of 35 villages with an area of 104 km². In general, the entire infrastructure in the municipality needs urgent renovation with the most serious problem being the water supply.
- The estimated total population is 17,000 with a large Kosovo Serbian majority (approximately 16,050). In addition, approximately 350 Kosovo Albanians are concentrated in the three villages of Boletin/Boljetin, Lipë/Lipa and Zhazhë/Zaža and small numbers of other minority communities also reside in the municipality. Approximately 4,000 Kosovo Serbs and 250 refugees from Croatia are currently accommodated in the municipality, presenting a big burden to the local government. As for returns to the Municipality, 80 Kosovo Albanian families have come back since 2000. [Source: Zvečan/Zveçan Department of Community Affairs]
- The monastery in Sokolica is located close to the Kosovo Albanian community and has been under KFOR protection since June 1999. The municipality has been traditionally known as a host to major cultural events in Europe. Since 2002, the Cultural Centre in Zvečan/Zveçan has hosted the International Jazz and Blues Festival every June.

2. Governing Structures

• Legislative

The Municipal Assembly comprises of 17 members elected after October 2002 Municipal Elections. The results of the elections held in November 2007 were not certified by the SRSG, due to the boycott by the Kosovo Serb majority. The Municipal Assembly President is Mr. Dragiša Milović, a member of the Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS). 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. The Municipal Assembly President was also provisionally appointed as Mayor for a renewable period of six months.

There is no Kosovo Albanian representative in the Assembly, but the Municipal Community Officer is Kosovo Albanian. The Communities Committee has not functioned since June 2007; the Mediation Committee and Municipal Working Group on Returns do not function.



DSS - Democratic Party of Serbia
SNC - Serb National Council
KP - Coalition Return
SPO - Serb Renewal Movement
SD - Social Democracy

• Executive

There are 55 employees working in the municipal administration, 10 in the Municipal Local Community Office, one Municipal Gender and Equal Opportunities Officer and one Municipal Return Officer.

The promulgated UN Executive Decision 2007/62 extended the mandate to the existing Municipal Assembly and renamed Municipal Assembly President (MAP) into the Mayor. The Decision, did not refer to the position of previous CEO. However, the CEO remaining in office at present following UNMIK Regulation 2000/45, is Mr. Dragan Gvozdić, a lawyer.

• Judiciary

There are currently no UN-recognised courts operating in Zvečan/Zveçan and judicial proceedings are administered by courts in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica.

• Security Presence

37 Kosovo Police Service officers (36 Kosovo Serb and one Kosovo Albanian) work with the police station in Zvečan/Zveçan. UNMIK Police maintains only a monitoring function. As for military presence, Danish and Greek KFOR cover the municipality while the Belgian Liaison Military Team also operates.

3. Political Overview

The October 2002 Municipal Elections brought major changes in political life in Zvečan/Zvečan, yet the relationship between the ruling and opposition parties has always been finely balanced. SPO and G17 Plus have their Kosovo Provincial branches in Zvečan/Zvečan and 10 other Kosovo Serb political parties have their municipal branches as well. As to the Kosovo Albanians, the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) has established a branch office in the municipality. 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. However, the Municipality does receive Kosovo Government's funding for the Municipal Community Office under the Fair Share Financing scheme.

4. Economy

The largest employer in Zvečan/Zvečan is the lead and zinc smelting factory "Trepča." Due to the serious environmental pollution from the factory UN and KFOR shut it down and the only ongoing operation is alloy production for batteries and battery recycling. Once employing up to 4,000 people, the very low operations of "Trepča" has had a devastating effect on the local economy. Today, in the municipality only about 500 people are working at 60 small private companies and 150 shops.

5. Public Services

• Health

The Health House provides basic health services with a special department for occupational medicine and toxicology and the Institute for Public Health. The House employs 167 staff. [Source: Municipal Department of General Administration]

• Education

The municipality has three Kosovo Serb and one Kosovo Albanian primary schools, one kindergarten and one Kosovo Serb secondary school with a total of 168 staff. In addition, there is a vocational school in Doljane which is a part of the Kosovo network of vocational centres funded by the Kosovo Government's Ministry of Labour. Since 2002, Arts and Music faculties have been established, relocated from Prishtinë/Priština after 1999. Since March 2006, the employees working in the Kosovo Serb schools have renounced the salary from the Kosovo Government on a directive issued by the Serbian Government's Coordination Centre for Kosovo. [Source: Municipal Department of General Administration]

6. Map of the region

Zvečan / Zvečan

