

1. Area and Population

The municipality of Dragash/Dragaš is located in southern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 435 km² and includes Dragash/Dragaš town and 35 villages. According to the municipal information officer, total population is estimated at 33,590.

Ethnic composition:

1. Kosovo Albanians: approximately 21,590 residing in the Opojë/Opolje region.
2. Kosovo Gorani: approximately 8,000 residing in the Gora/Gorë region.
3. Kosovo Bosniaks: approximately 4,000 residing in the Gora/Gorë region

Dragash/Dragaš municipality is probably unique within Kosovo for its tolerant environment between its communities.

2. Governing Structures and Political Overview

The total number of voters in the Dragash/Dragaš municipality registered for the last municipal elections held in November 2009 was 35,454 including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout was 37.6 per cent/13,339 voters (source: Central Elections Commission).

The election results were as follows:

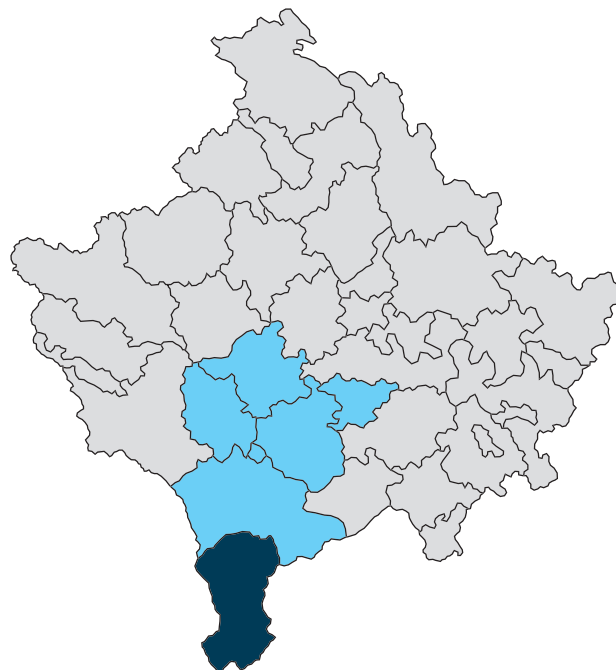
LDK Democratic League of Kosovo	33.0%	9 seats
PDK Democratic Party of Kosovo	33.0%	9 seats
VAKAT Coalition	11.0%	3 seats
AAK Alliance for the Future of Kosovo	7.0%	2 seats
AKR Alliance New Kosovo	4.0%	1 seat
LDD Democratic League of Dardania	4.0%	1 seat
GIG Gora Citizen's Initiative	4.0%	1 seat
SDA Democratic Action Party	4.0%	1 seat

a. Legislative

The municipal assembly has 27 seats distributed amongst eight (8) political entities; 22 members are Kosovo Albanian; two (2) Kosovo Gorani; and three are (3) Kosovo Bosniak, while eight (8) are female. The municipal assembly chairperson is Lulzim Rifaj (PDK).

According to the law on local self-government, municipality with more than ten (10) percent of residents

The OSCE regional centre Prizren covers seven (7) municipalities including Dragash/Dragaš and has field teams working with all of them.



belonging to communities not in majority in that municipality is required to appoint a deputy municipal assembly chairperson for communities. Municipal assembly deputy chairperson for communities in Dragash/Dragaš is Šerif Aga (VAKAT), Kosovo Bosniak.

b. Executive

Dragash/Dragaš municipality is headed by the mayor Salim Jenuzi (PDK); deputy mayor Shehadin Tërshnjaku (PDK) and deputy mayor for communities Ćasip Kuši (VAKAT). It has eight (8) departments and department directors: directorate of administration and personnel (PDK); directorate of economy, finance and development (PDK); protection, rescue and public services (PDK); education (PDK); health and social welfare (PDK); agriculture, inspection, tourism and rural development (VAKAT); urbanism, cadastre and protection of environment (VAKAT) culture, youth and sport (VAKAT) (source: municipal website).

2. Judiciary

The municipal court in Dragash/Dragaš has two (2) judges (Kosovo Albanian, one female and one male). The minor offences court in Dragash/Dragaš has one judge (Kosovo Albanian male). Dragash/Dragaš municipality does not have a district court. Prizren district court covers the municipality (source: municipal court and minor offences court).

3. Security Presence

The Kosovo police station in Dragash/Dragaš has 54 police officers, including eight (8) police officers in Kruševo/Krushevë police sub-station; 36 are Kosovo Albanian, 14 are Kosovo Gorani and five (5) are Kosovo Bosniak, while one (1) is female.

As for the international military presence, Turkish KFOR is in charge of the area (source: Kosovo police).

4. Economy

The economy of the municipality of Dragash/Dragaš is mainly based on agriculture and small trade businesses. There is a high potential for tourism development. There are some 740 registered private businesses operating in the municipality with some 1,050 employees (source: municipal website).

5. Public Services

a. Infrastructure

The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality of Dragash/Dragaš is assessed as good. Almost all roads are asphalted. The construction of a water supply system for six (6) villages has started this year, while the rest have individual water supply systems. (source: municipal development plan).

b. Health

The primary health care system currently includes one (1) municipal family health centre and 13 health houses. The health sector has 97 employees including doctors, nurses and support staff, 76 male and 21 female.

Access: All communities have access to health care and facilities (source: municipal directorate of health).

c. Education

There are 33 primary schools with 6,599 pupils and 404 teachers; one (1) multi-ethnic secondary school in Dragash/Dragaš town with 959 students, 919 Albanian and 40 Kosovo Bosniak, and 73 teachers that provides education in Albanian and Bosnian languages; and one (1) secondary school that operates under the Serbian system in the Mlike/Mlikë village with approximately 160 students and 20 teachers (source: municipal directorate of education and Mlike/Mlikë school management).

6. Religious and Cultural Sites

There are two (2) mosques in Dragash/Dragaš town and 35 in the villages, one in each. Most of them were renovated after the 1999 conflict (source: municipal development plan).

toknow

In Dragash/Dragaš there are:

27 seats in the municipal assembly distributed amongst 8 political entities.

54 police officers.

3 judges.

497 teachers in 33 primary schools and 2 secondary schools.