

Obiliq/Obilić

September 2009

1. Area and population

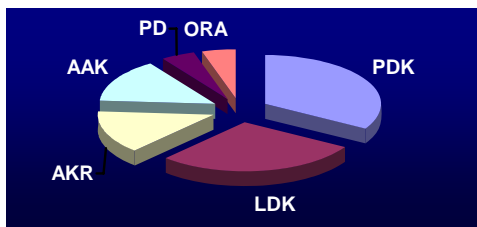
Obiliq/Obilić municipality is located in northwest of Prishtinë/Priština on the main road to Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. The municipality was created in 1989, prior to which it was part of Prishtinë/Priština municipality. It consists of a town and 19 villages. While there are still a lot of unpaved roads especially in rural areas, the overall road conditions are good and improving. As to the water supply, small or remote villages are not yet connected to the main network. Some villages also suffer from a lack of adequate sewage system.

The total population is estimated at 30,000. The majority of the population are Kosovo Albanians (approximately 25,000) and some 3,400 Kosovo Serbs, 550 Kosovo Roma, 300 Kosovo Ashkali, and 70 Kosovo Bosniaks reside there (other communities are also present in smaller numbers). Most of non-Albanian communities live in the villages of Babin Most/Babimoc, Milloshevë/Miloševo, Plemetin/Plemetina, Caravodicë/Crkvena Vodica and Obiliq/Obilić town. Until December 2003, 635 displaced persons returned to the municipality, while the March 2004 riots increased once more the number of displaced persons. According to the UNHCR, there are currently 8,615 persons displaced from Obiliq/Obilić municipality residing outside of Kosovo. [Source: UNHCR]

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The municipal assembly consist of 21 members elected in the November 2007 municipal elections. There are no Kosovo Serb representatives in the body. PDK has the majority with 7 seats, but alliances are needed for the decision making.



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo (7 seats)
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo (6 Seats)
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (3 Seats)
AKR - Alliance for the New Kosovo (3 Seats)
ORA - Reformist Party ORA (1 Seat)
PD - Justice Party (1 Seat)

• Executive

The mayor of the municipality, Mr. Rexhep Kelani (LDK) was elected in the second round of 2007 municipal elections. The municipal administration is composed of five directorates and the municipal communities' office (MCO). Four out of the five directorates are headed by LDK affiliated directorates, while the fifth one (Directorate of Education) has an AAK affiliated director. The MCO is headed by a Kosovo Serb. The board of directors is chaired by the mayor, with the participation of all directors and presence of head of the MCO.

• Judiciary

Obiliq/Obilić municipality is under the jurisdiction of the Prishtinë/Priština courts.

• Security presence

There is one Kosovo police station in Obiliq/Obilić. Slovak KFOR troops cover the area.

3. Political overview

The PDK is just one assembly member ahead of the LDK and far from forming a simple majority. Alliances and agreements are therefore needed to ensure decision-taking in the municipal assembly. The governance has been guaranteed by an alliance between LDK and AAK, which has shown to be quite strong and efficient. PDK has remained in the opposition, despite holding majority of the seats, and its attitude has not been always constructive. PDK has boycotted municipal initiatives in some instances. Kosovo Serbs are not represented in the municipal assembly; Kosovo Serb community refused to participate in the November 2007 municipal elections.

4. Economy

The Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK), with two major power plants and a third one projected, is the primary employer in the Obiliq/Obilić municipality. Yet, since the 1999 conflict, it has not sustained the level of support it once provided to the municipal population, and the municipality suffered economic

consequences. This situation particularly affects members from the non-Albanian communities, who have been unemployed since. The major natural resource is a large reserve of coal with an estimated 13 billion tones of lignite. The enterprise’s environmental impact and potential health damage to the local population is one of the main issues to be tackled; the power stations and coalmines have had difficulties to obtain investments for upgrading their facilities to make them more environmentally friendly, however, projects include expansion of both the mine and the power plants, and therefore the environmental situation could get even worse. Aside from heavy industry, agriculture is also well developed in the municipality with 52 percent of arable land cultivated. Kosovo Albanian farmers organize their wheat harvesting and milling on a co-operative basis, while Kosovo Serbs make individual arrangements.

5. Public services

• Health

The main primary family health centre situated in Obiliq/Obilić town caters for the entire municipal population; however, Kosovo Serbs usually make use of the health centres in Babin Most/Babimoc and Plemetin/Plemetina, as well as other parallel institutions. [Source: Municipal department of health and social welfare]

• Education

The schools in the municipality are ethnically separated, with the exception of the elementary school in Caravodice/Crkvena Vodica, where Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb pupils use the same school facility in different shifts. There are nine primary schools and one secondary school in the municipality, with a total number of 5,512 students, including two integrated secondary school classes of economy and medicine in Plemetin/Plemetina for Kosovo Serb students. Some 485 pupils are from the Kosovo Serb community, 45 are Kosovo Roma and 98 are Kosovo Ashkali. [Source: Department of Education, Sport and Culture]

6. Map of the region

