

Prishtinë/ Priština

September 2009

1. Area and population

Prishtinë/Priština municipality is located in the central part of Kosovo covering an area of 572 km². It is the administrative, political, economic and cultural centre of Kosovo and the most populous municipality. The huge influx of people to Prishtinë/Priština after the 1999 conflict from other parts of Kosovo placed tremendous pressure on the existing infrastructure in the municipality, from accommodation to public services and roads. The municipality has also faced serious difficulties with the provisions of water and electricity. Meanwhile, the telecommunication situation is rather good; the landline network has been upgraded and the mobile networks well operational.

Prishtinë/Priština also includes the township of Gračanica/Graçanicë which is the cultural centre of Serbs living in the central part of Kosovo. Gračanica/Graçanicë hosts a historic Serbian Orthodox Monastery which is home to a prominent community and religious leader, Bishop Artemije.

The total population, which increased significantly since the end of the 1999 conflict, is estimated at 500,000. However, estimates on the total population of Prishtinë/Priština vary considerably. According to the UNMIK, the vast majority are Kosovo Albanians (approx. 475,000); the estimated number of non-Albanian communities in 2005 was 12,515 Kosovo Serbs, 4,556 Kosovo Ashkali and Roma, and 450 Kosovo Bosniaks and Gorani. Other non-Albanian communities, including Kosovo Turks, amount up to some 3,950. [Source: 2007 Municipal Returns Strategy of Prishtinë/Priština municipality]

According to the UNHCR, a number of Kosovo Serbs (1,150), Kosovo Ashkali (296) and Roma (292) displaced have returned to the municipality since 2000. However, the March 2004 riots not only stopped the process of returns but also forced a large number of remaining urban Kosovo Serbs to leave their home. In Gračanica/Graçanicë, there are currently two collective centres inhabited by displaced Kosovo Serbs, Voçar and Padalište.

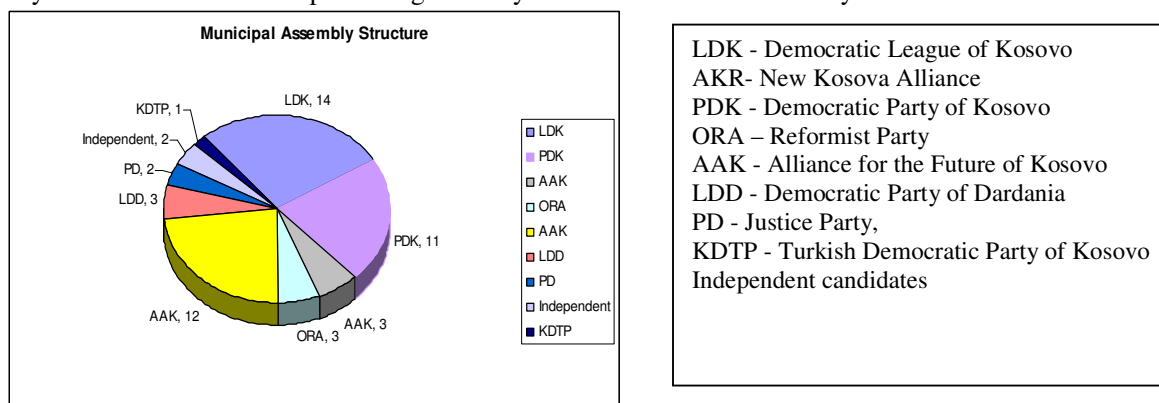
Prishtinë/Priština has houses of worship for the Islam, Serbian Orthodox and Catholic religions. Major religious landmarks include the Imperial (Fatih) Mosque built in 1461 by the Turkish Sultan Mehmet II Fatih, the 13th century Gračanica/Graçanicë Serbian Orthodox Church and Monastery, and the Catholic Church in the Ulpiana district.

Municipal website: www.prishtina-komuna.org

2. Governing structures

● Legislative

The municipal assembly comprises 51 members elected in the November 2007 municipal elections. There is only one Turkish member representing minority communities in the assembly.



A coalition between LDK, PDK and KDTP was established in order to secure the majority in the municipal assembly. AAK offered its support to the coalition, without being officially part of it. Currently, the coalition has an effective majority of 26 votes (LDK 14, PDK 11, and KDTP one). Two municipal assembly members (one from ORA and one from AKR) seceded from their parties and decided to act as independent representatives. One municipal assembly member from ORA party decided to join LDK, leaving ORA party with only three representatives.

● Executive

The municipal administration structure is made up of the mayor and the council of directors. The mayor, Isa Mustafa from LDK was elected directly by Prishtinë/Priština voters in the runoff of 2007 elections. His rival was Fatmir Limaj from PDK.

● Judiciary

Prishtinë/Priština has a municipal court (23 judges) with a municipal prosecutors' office (five prosecutors) and a minor offences court (14 judges). In addition to those municipal institutions, the municipality hosts a district court (12 judges) with a district prosecutors' office (four prosecutors) as well as the Supreme Court of Kosovo, the Kosovo Prosecutors' Office, the High Court of Minor Offences and the Commercial Court. [Source: legal office in Prishtinë/Priština municipality]

● Security presence

According to the 2007 analysis report on police activities in the Prishtinë/Priština region, there are 1,500 Kosovo police officers in nine stations, three substations and three regional units. Prishtinë/Priština municipality is covered by the KFOR Multinational Task Force Centre (MNTF C) with Ireland as a leading nation as of 31 July 2007.

3. Political overview

● 25 political parties have their headquarters in Prishtinë/Priština; additionally there are regional branches. LDK, AKR, and PDK are the most prominent powers in the municipality.

4. Economy

● A wide range of economic activities take place in Prishtinë/Priština, including construction, agriculture, communication, trade, and hotel industry. The area of Čaglavica/Çagllavicë village has experienced a considerable increase in business activities. There are 8,735 registered businesses with a total of 75,089 employees. Further, many efforts have been put to promote micro-credit schemes to further economic growth.

5. Public services

● Health

The health house of Prishtinë/Priština municipality employs 83 general practitioners, 94 specialists, 428 nurses and technicians, and 168 administrative staff. Approximately 50,000 patients visit the health house each month. At the Gračanica/Gračanicë health house, 124 medical and 270 non-medical staff work; approx. 150 patients visit the health house per day. For the Kosovo Serb and Roma communities in Prishtinë/Priština region, access to the secondary health care service has been difficult depending of their access to the health centres in the region or, for serious cases, to the hospital in northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. The access to the primary health care services is still difficult in the rural areas. Prishtinë/Priština also hosts the University Hospital where the secondary and tertiary health care is provided by 3,600 staff. [Source: chief finance officer of Prishtinë/Priština municipality]

● Education

The municipality has 37 primary schools; the total number of students is more than 33,575. In Prishtinë/Priština town, there are two schools where Kosovo Turk and Bosniak students can be taught in their mother tongue. There are also twelve secondary schools with a total number of 12,406 students. There is an extreme necessity for additional buildings especially for secondary schools. In addition, pre-school education (nine schools, 1,600 children) and special education for disabled children are available in the municipality. There are 13 schools in Kosovo Serb populated areas, eight of which are secondary, four primaries, and one pre-school. [Source: education department in Prishtinë/Priština municipality.]

6. Map of the region

