

Ferizaj/Uroševac

September 2009

1. Area and population

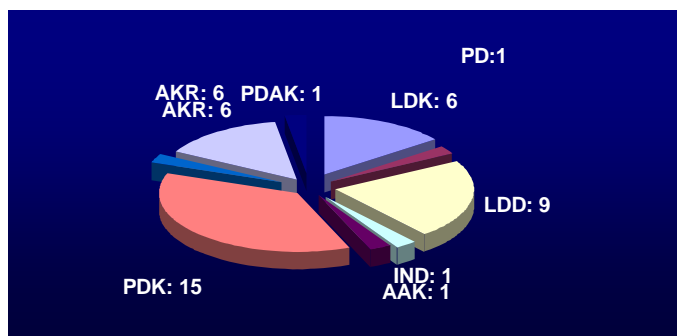
• Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality is located in southern Kosovo, on the main road between Prishtinë/Priština and Skopje¹. The municipality covers an area of 345 km² and consists of one town and 45 villages. It is largely an agricultural plain. The population of Ferizaj/Uroševac is estimated at 170,000. The majority, approximately 160,000 residents, are Kosovo Albanian. Other communities residing in the municipality include Kosovo Ashkali (3,762), Roma (265), Gorani (230), Kosovo Bosniaks (70), Kosovo Serbs (63), Egyptians (50), as well as Kosovo Turks (40). Most Kosovo Serbs are returnees and live in the villages of Bablak/Babljak, Srpski Babuš/Babushë i Sërbëve and Talinoc i Muhaxherëve/Muhadžer Talinovac, while Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians live in the village of Dubravë/Dubrava and the settlements of Halit Ibishi/Halit Ibiši, Sallahane/Salahane and Koçi Xoxe/Koçe Zoze downtown.

[Source: municipal department of administration and personnel and municipal communities office] As of summer 2009, an estimated 211 Kosovo Serbs and 178 members of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have returned to the municipality, while approximately 150 Kosovo Serbs have re-departed after a short stay. Also, Kosovo Serbs preparing to return to Nekodin/Nekodim village, as part of a facilitated return, have put their plans on hold. In addition, 131 members of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian as well as Kosovo Bosniak communities have been forcibly returned to the municipality since 2001. [Source: UNHCR and municipal communities office]

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The municipal assembly is comprised of 41 members who were elected in the November 2007 municipal elections. The municipal assembly chairperson is Mr. Agim Aliu (PDK). The municipal assembly deputy chairperson for communities is a representative of Kosovo Ashkali community and a member of PDAK.



PDK – Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDD – Democratic League of Dardania
AKR – Alliance New Kosovo
LDK – Democratic League of Kosovo
AAK – Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
PDAK – Ashkali Democratic Party of Kosovo
PD – Justice Party
ORA – Reformist Party ORA
IND – Independent

• Executive

Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality has 11 municipal departments covering all spheres of municipal business. The executive branch is led by the mayor, Mr. Bajrush Xhemajli (PDK). The municipal administration currently employs 255 civil servants including 13 Kosovo Ashkali, two Kosovo Roma, two Kosovo Gorani, one Kosovo Serb, and one Kosovo Turk.

• Judiciary

There are municipal and minor offences courts (eleven Kosovo Albanian judges) and the office of the prosecutor (five Kosovo Albanian prosecutors) located in Ferizaj/Uroševac town, which fall under the district court in Prishtinë/Priština. The municipal court of Ferizaj/Uroševac covers the municipalities of Ferizaj/Uroševac, Kačanik/Kaçanik, Štrpce/Shtërpçë and Shtime/Štimlje, with a sub-branch court in Štrpce/Shtërpçë. The sub-branch court has one judge at the municipal court and one judge at the minor offences court, both Kosovo Albanians. According to the president of the municipal court in Štrpce/Shtërpçë, Kosovo Serbs and Roma have access to the court system.

• Security presence

The regional Kosovo police station covering Ferizaj/Uroševac, Kačanik/Kaçanik, Štrpce/Shtërpçë and Shtime/Štimlje municipalities is based in Ferizaj/Uroševac. It employs 517 police officers, including

¹ Skopje is the capital of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (fYROM).

45 Kosovo Serbs and nine Kosovo Ashkali officers. The Ferizaj/Uroševac municipal police station is staffed by 169 police officers, out of which 164 are Kosovo Albanian (including 24 female officers) and five Ashkali. Both the regional and municipal stations in Ferizaj/ Uroševac are monitored by EULEX police. In addition, the municipality hosts the United States KFOR base “Camp Bondsteel”, and the Greek KFOR base.

3. Political overview

The political power balance in Ferizaj/Uroševac changed substantially after the November 2007 municipal elections. PDK now holds the majority of seats in the municipal assembly that was formerly LDK-run. PDK is followed by LDD, AKR, LDK, and a number of smaller political parties. The municipality is governed by PDK in coalition with AKR, assuring a majority of votes within the municipal assembly (21 out of 41 seats) and with departmental directors’ positions shared between the two coalition partners.

4. Economy

The United States defence contractor “Brown & Root” is still a major employer in the municipality. All 22 socially-owned enterprises in the municipality have been privatised. According to statistical information from the Kosovo ministry of trade and industry, there are around 3,500 private small and medium-sized businesses registered in the municipality; eight percent are production oriented, 49 percent service oriented, and 43 percent fall under the category of commercial enterprises.

[Source: municipal department of economy, finance and budget]

5. Public services

• Health

Primary health care facilities in Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality consist of a main and three smaller family care centres. The villages receive medical services through thirteen health stations, including mobile teams, covering different municipal areas. The municipal department of health and social welfare employs a total of 318 civil servants. The centre for mental health, the institute for public health and a hospital are additional medical facilities providing secondary medical care and are supervised by the respective ministry. [Source: municipal department of health and social welfare]

• Education

There are 32 primary schools in the municipality with 22,989 students and six secondary schools with 8,160 students in total. The school attendance of Kosovo Ashkali, Roma and Gorani children is lower than that of Kosovo Albanians, but improvements have been noticed during the 2008-2009 school year (out of the total number of pupils at all education levels, 904 are from non-Albanian communities). There is also one kindergarten with 233 children registered. The municipal department of education and science is comprised of 1,780 professional and support staff, including nine members of non-Albanian communities. [Source: municipal department of education and science and municipal community office]

6. Map of the region

Ferizaj / Uroševac

