

## Zubin Potok

September 2009

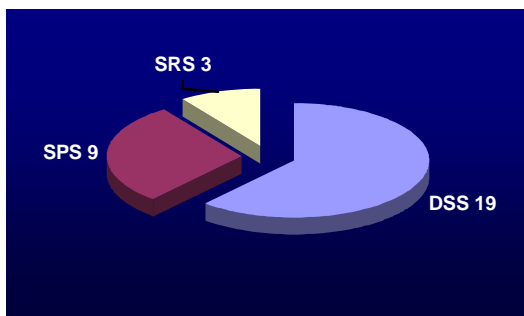
### 1. Area and population

Zubin Potok municipality is the most western of the three northern municipalities with a Kosovo Serb majority. It consists of a town and 64 villages with a total area of 335 km<sup>2</sup>. An artificial lake, Gazivode, stretches through the municipality extending across to Novi Pazar and Montenegro. A major road, the Adriatic Highway, is in good condition, though local roads need repair. The electricity supply and sewage systems have always been problematic. Foreign aid helped improve the water supply system, and the Electric Corporation of Serbia reinforced the power supply network. As for telecommunications, 90 percent of the area is covered by a mobile network. The population is estimated at 14,900 with a vast Kosovo Serb majority, 2800 of whom are displaced persons and 220 are refugees from Croatia living in private accommodation and collective centres. Approximately 800 Kosovo Albanians live in Čabër/Čabra village. (Zubin Potok Department of Community Affairs; Civil Registration 1991; National Structure of Municipalities, Yugoslav Statistic Bureau, Belgrade 1993.)

### 2. Governing structures

#### • Legislative

The Kosovo Serb electorate in Zubin Potok boycotted Kosovo's November 2007 elections. In December 2007, the SRSG issued Executive Decision 2007/62, extending the mandates of municipal assembly formed in the 2002 municipal elections for six months and appointing the municipal assembly president as mayor for a renewable period of six months. In July 2008, the Kosovo government issued the Decision 02/25 based on the SRSG's Executive Decision 2007/62 extending the mandates of municipal assembly established in 2002 until the next local elections. However, on 11 May 2008 and for the first time since the establishment of UNMIK in 1999, Serbia organized municipal elections in Kosovo. Those elections resulted in the establishment of a new Zubin Potok municipal assembly and other municipal bodies in accordance with the Serbian legal framework. The municipal community office in Čabrë/Čabra, however, follows Kosovo applied legislation and uses funds allocated from the Kosovo consolidated budget. The Zubin Potok municipal assembly comprises 31 elected members: DSS holds the 19-member majority; SPS has nine members, and the SRS, three members. Stevan Božović (DSS) serves as president of the municipal assembly. Deputy president of the municipal assembly is Miodrag Andrić (DSS). Nenad Baščarević is the municipal assembly secretary.



DSS - Democratic Party of Serbia  
SPS - Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) has  
SRS - Serbian Radical Party

#### • Executive

The executive branch includes the president and deputy president of the municipality and the municipal council. The former municipal assembly president Slaviša Ristić (DSS) was elected as president of the municipality, and Srđan Đurović (DSS) as the deputy president. Seven members, including the president and deputy president, comprise the municipal council. The administrative branch has seven departments: general administration, assembly, and common affairs; social affairs; urbanism, utilities, and housing issues; budget, finance, and tax administration; economy, local development, and environmental protection; legal, property, and inspection issues; and civil protection. The municipal community office in Čabrë/Čabra village continues to operate in accordance with UNMIK Regulations 2000/45 and 2007/30 representing the interests of the Kosovo Albanian community. The mandate of the Kosovo Albanian additional deputy municipal assembly president (or additional deputy mayor) has also been extended.

#### • Judicial

The Zubin Potok municipal and minor offence courts ceased functioning after 17 February 2008. Currently, no municipal or minor offence court serves the area. The municipality falls under the jurisdiction of the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica district court and district and municipal public prosecutors' offices, that were following

the declaration of independence relocated to Vushtri/Vučitrn municipal court premises and now function with limited capacities. A Serbian parallel court exists but only in name.

#### ● Security presence

The Zubin Potok police station has 41 Kosovo police officers. After the departure of UNMIK police, two EULEX police officers work with the police station in a mentoring, monitoring, and advising capacity. Kosovo police headquarters opened a substation in Çabër/Čabra village, currently staffed by three Kosovo Albanian officers. Danish KFOR covers the municipality and, among other things, conducts mobile patrols.

#### 3. Political overview

While the political scene in Zubin Potok can be characterized as diverse, DSS dominates municipal institutions. As for Kosovo Albanian political parties, Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), and Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) are active in Çabër/Čabra village. The March 2004 events initially blocked the cooperation between Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian members of the municipal assembly. Two months later, however, all assembly members agreed to leave the past behind and continue with the work of the assembly. In June 2006, the municipality terminated cooperation with the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) and since then operates within the institutional framework Serbia. Municipal authorities, advised by the Serbian government, decided not to take part in the November 2007 Kosovo elections, though the Kosovo Albanian community in Çabër/Čabra participated in elections.

#### 4. Economy

Zubin Potok is an agricultural community, but the level of agricultural production has declined due to low investment. Most food processing factories in Zubin Potok were established as branches of Serbian manufacturing chains to serve the Kosovo market. As they no longer distribute their product to parts of Kosovo inhabited by Kosovo Albanians, the factories are not able to function with profit. Their workers are still employed but get paid irregularly.

#### 5. Public services

##### ● Health

Seven doctors and 63 support staff work in the health house in Zubin Potok town. There are also seven health care units in the villages, including Çabër/Čabra. Most are reachable by standard means of transportation, but equipment and medical supplies are limited. Patients with serious medical conditions are sent to the hospital in northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. Kosovo Serbs travel to northern Mitrovica/Mitrovicë via an alternative mountain road as the main road leads through Kosovo Albanian villages. Access to the hospital in northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica can be difficult, especially in winter. (Health house director)

##### ● Education

Zubin Potok has three Kosovo Serb primary schools with approximately 600 students and 76 teachers, one high school with 230 students and 33 teachers, and one kindergarten with 246 children and 27 teachers. In Çabër/Čabra, there is one primary school with 207 students and 14 teachers. Since June 2006, the Faculty of Agriculture of the public university in northern Mitrovicë/Mitrovica has been located in the municipality. The Serbian Ministry of Education pays all employees working in the education sector, except those in Çabër/Čabra. (Zubin Potok department of general administration)

#### 6. Map of the region

Zubin Potok / Zubin Potok

