

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe **Mission in Kosovo**



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Who we are

The OSCE Mission works to improve the protection of human and community rights, good governance and public safety standards in Kosovo. The Mission, established in 1999, is the largest field operation in the OSCE.

It is the only civilian international organization present all over Kosovo that closely monitors political, institutional and security developments and provides recommendations for improvements where needed.

One of the Mission's main objectives is to further the development of a democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo, where the rights of all people are respected. In this regard, it supports institutions through training, advocacy, promotion and expertise. The Mission has been involved in supporting the establishment of a number of key institutions, including the Assembly of Kosovo, the Ombudsperson Institution, the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety, the Central Election Commission, the Office of the Language Commissioner, and municipal community protection bodies.

Presence

The Mission has five regional centres – Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/ Priština and Prizren, with field teams covering all of 38 municipalities across Kosovo.

Mandate

The Mission's mandate, outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, and OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 305 of 1 July 1999, gives the Mission a "leading role in matters relating to institution- and democracy-building and human rights."

The Mission works closely with other OSCE field missions in South-East Europe, to improve regional co-operation, dialogue and reconciliation.



The Mission works with institutions to help preserve and protect cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo. Its latest thematic report "Protection of Cultural Heritage in Kosovo", published in 2022, reviews current practices and offers recommendations to relevant institutions.



The Mission in Kosovo places special focus on women's empowerment. Its initiative, the Dialogue Academy for Young Women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade, co-organized with the Mission to Serbia, annually gathers women from both societies to promote leadership, dialogue and peace-building.

What we do

The Mission's activities are guided by four principles: mainstreaming multi-ethnicity, tolerance, dialogue and reconciliation; promoting equality, institutional transparency and accountability; sustainability; and advancing gender, youth and communities' rights.

The Mission advances gender equality and women and girls' empowerment through all its programming while supporting institutions in implementing gender sensitive legal and policy frameworks.

The Mission has three programmatic departments: Human Rights and Communities, Democratization, and Security and Public Safety.

Human Rights and Communities

Protecting and promoting human rights and community rights in Kosovo are among the Mission's key objectives.

The Mission focuses on non-majority communities' rights by advocating for their full participation in the decision-making process, their security, language rights and education. The Mission monitors the returns and reintegration process and advocates for property rights of displaced persons, vulnerable groups and especially women. In these areas, it monitors and advocates for the institutions' compliance with international human rights instruments and proper implementation of the applicable legislation. As a member of the Implementation

Monitoring Council, which has mandate to preserve and protect cultural and religious heritage, the Mission contributes to full implementation of Special Protective Zones legislation and provides appropriate training.

As a key international actor, the Mission reviews draft legislation and policy documents for compliance with international human rights standards and rule of law principles. The Mission's trial monitoring program monitors cases at all stages throughout Kosovo for compliance with fair trial and international human rights standards. Based on this monitoring, the Mission publishes reports offering practical recommendations to justice system institutions and actors, including on training and suggested legislative changes. The Mission also strengthens the capacities of non-judicial institutions and civil society organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights.

In addition to promoting inter-faith dialogue, the Mission supports the strengthening of relations between religious communities and institutions and their participation in local security mechanisms, as well as promoting their engagement in preventing and

combating violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism. Additionally, it supports institutions to reintegrate repatriated persons from conflict areas.

In line with the Mission's gender equality priority, it works with institutions and NGOs to address domestic violence and protect victim's rights. The Mission improves support for victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence by monitoring implementation of the legal and policy framework, strengthening capacities of service providers in protecting victims of domestic violence, and raising public awareness on victim's rights.

Democratization

The Mission provides support to government institutions in performing their functions both individually and together as an integrated system of good governance. It works with the Assembly of Kosovo, independent institutions and municipalities on enhancing their capacities to keep the executive power in check, and supports all levels of government to improve inter-governmental co-ordination in policy-making and implementation.

It assists independent institutions in complying with democratic standards and enhancing the quality of their work, in line with international best practices. It also strengthens electoral processes by supporting electoral management bodies to ensure that elections are administered professionally and fairly.

At local level, the Mission advises municipalities on issues such as budget development and audit processes, e-governance, gender responsive budgeting,

inter-municipal co-operation, legal drafting, policy-making and implementation, environmental governance, effective implementation of the right to access public documents, and the right to protection of personal data.

The Mission strives to improve compliance of key media institutions, including the public broadcaster, Press Council of Kosovo and Independent Media Commission, in line with the legal and regulatory framework and international standards, through monitoring, reporting and advocacy initiatives. It works with the media to strengthen capacities of media professionals and to enhance public awareness both to safeguard the media profession and to create a safer environment for journalists. A strong focus of the Mission's work is on expanding media and information literacy education.

The Mission takes an all-encompassing approach to strengthening civil society organizations' and young people's public participation and their contributions to inter- and intra-community dialogue. In particular, the Mission promotes equal and inclusive public participation in policy and decision-making processes at all levels, with a particular focus on young women, youth belonging to non-majority communities, young persons with disabilities and those from remote areas.

In line with OSCE commitments, the Mission is keen to advance Youth and Women, Peace and Security Agendas, including through flagship initiatives, such as the Dialogue Academy for Young Women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade, organized jointly with the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

What we do

(continued)

Security and Public Safety

The Mission provides the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its public safety agencies with multifaceted support to prevent and combat security threats and foster a safe environment for all communities in Kosovo. It primarily focuses on strategic and capacity building support to the police and other public safety agencies in order to enhance their skills in preventing and fighting various serious and organized crimes.

The Mission also assists the Forensics Agency and Kosovo Police forensic unit as well as the Police Inspectorate and Kosovo Police. Targeted capacity building assistance is also extended to the special police operation units in competent handling of threats accompanied by critical incidents and small arms and light weapons.

The Mission supports the correctional and probation services with advanced and specialized training at the operational level, and in-house expertise and advice at the strategic level. It also offers expertise and advisory assistance to the executive level of the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety in strengthening its capacities and internal quality control of training programmes.

To foster dialogue between communities and police, the Mission works to expand police-public partnerships. It established a number of community safety fora to address local safety and security issues, and continues to expand and strengthen such fora across Kosovo.

The Mission also works with community policing and community safety fora, engaging them in tackling violent



The Mission assists the Forensics Agency and Kosovo Police Forensic Unit through targeted training for their officials. In March 2023, the Mission provided training for crime scene investigators on examination of fingerprint evidence.

extremism, illicit drugs, hate crime, trafficking in human beings and violence against women, including domestic violence, at the grassroots level. Additionally, the Mission works with the police to advance operational delivery of intelligence-led and community policing strategy.

The Mission supports the police, public safety agencies and women professional associations to increase the number of women officers, both in the ranks and

in managerial positions, through training, awareness raising advocacy and mentorship, including in assisting the implementation of the strategic police gender equality agenda.

The Mission also engages with young people on youth delinquency, especially on topics such as preventing drug abuse and hate crimes, and enhances officers' capacities to investigate bias motivation.

Facts and figures



Head of Mission
Ambassador Michael Davenport



Staffing
491 posts, 115 international and 376 local staff. The Mission's personnel is based at the Headquarters in Prishtinë/Priština and five Regional Centres - Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/Priština and Prizren.



Budget
17,462,600 Euros

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