

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



# 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 second largest OSCE field operation.

It is the only civilian international organization present all over Kosovo that closely monitors political, institutional and security developments and offers systemic remedies where needed.

One of the Mission's main objectives is to further develop the democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo where the rights of all people are respected. In this regard, the Mission offers expertise and guidance to the institutions in Kosovo and reaches out to communities, in keeping with the Mission's mandate.

The Mission has been involved in establishing a number of key institutions, including the Assembly of Kosovo, the Ombudsperson Institution, the Kosovo Academy of Justice, the Central Election Commission, the Office of the Language Commissioner, municipal community protection bodies, among many others.

The Mission maintains close working relations with all communities and local institutions, and is a strong advocate for the local communities in promoting and protecting their rights.

## Presence

The Mission's field presence consists of five regional centres/offices – Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/Priština and Prizren – as well as over 30 field teams in 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 OSCE Mission in Kosovo focuses on three main areas: human and community rights, democratization and public safety. The Mission closely works with other OSCE field presences in South-East Europe to improve regional co-operation, dialogue and reconciliation.



The Mission places special focus on women's participation in decision-making and promotes gender equality, women's rights and empowerment. It raises awareness against gender-based and domestic violence and works to improve protection of women's property and inheritance rights.



The Mission supports media institutions in improving compliance with international standards, and journalists in strengthening ethnical, objective and independent reporting. It promotes safety of journalists and advocates for introduction of media and information literacy into formal education.

# What we do

The Mission's activities are guided by four principles: mainstreaming multi-ethnicity, tolerance, dialogue and reconciliation; promoting transparency and accountability to counter discrimination; sustainability; and advancing gender equality. They are essential to achieving a more prosperous and democratic society.

The Mission is committed to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, through all its programming and it supports the institutions in implementing 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 and community rights in Kosovo are among the Mission's key objectives.

The Mission focuses on non-majority communities' rights through advocating for their full participation in the decision-making process, their security, language rights and education. The Mission observes the returns and reintegration process as well as the safeguarding of 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

the proper implementation of the applicable legislation. It also builds capacities of relevant institutions and civil society. As a member of the Implementation Monitoring Council, a mechanism established to preserve and protect cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo, the Mission works with the main partners for full implementation of the Special Protective Zones legislation.

The Mission is a key international actor in Kosovo with regard to the human rights and gender sensitive focused monitoring of the justice sector. It monitors over 2,000 hearings in every court in Kosovo for compliance with fair trial standards. We use the knowledge from this monitoring to support interventions that improve judicial and prosecutorial compliance with human rights standards, as well as performance and efficiency. The Mission also works to support and strengthen Kosovo institutions and civil society organizations promoting and protecting human rights or ensuring that victims of crimes or human rights violations are able to receive adequate protection,

redress and/or remedy.

In addition to the promotion of interfaith dialogue, acceptance and mutual understanding among different religious communities, the Mission fosters the strengthening of their relations with institutions as well as their participation in the local security mechanisms.

Training and internship activities in the area of rule of law, women's rights protection, property rights as well as intercommunity dialogue and human rights education is the constant focus of Mission activities involving youth from different communities.

In line with the Mission-wide gender equality priority, the Department works with Kosovo institutions and NGOs to address domestic violence and assist victims.

## Democratization

The Mission helps government institutions perform their functions individually and together as an integrated system of good governance. It works with the Assembly and independent institutions to further enhance their capacities to keep the executive power in check, and supports all level governments improve intergovernmental coordination in policy making and implementation.

At the local level, the Mission provides technical support to municipalities in financial, human resources and performance management on one hand, and engaging the public in decision making on the other.

The Mission strives to improve compliance of media institutions, including the public broadcaster,

the Press Council of Kosovo, and the Independent Media Commission, with the legal and regulatory framework in line with international standards and best practices. It works with the media to strengthen ethical, objective, and independent reporting and the safety of journalists and facilitates initiatives that introduce media and information literacy at official educational structures and the grass roots level.

Through its flagship programs of the Media + Public Relations Policy Initiative and the Justice Transparency Forum, the Mission seeks to enhance the media outreach and communications aspects of public institutions and facilitates a formal space for on-going communication between journalists and justice institutions to enable media to report accurately and according to public interest on the judicial process.

The Mission is also active in working with the youth. It provides support through a number of awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, and engages them in local initiatives on good governance, gender equality, reaches out to young Assembly members in support of their parliamentary work, and trains young journalists. It organizes various traineeship, and volunteer programmes, and promotes dialogue and women empowerment through the Follow Us Initiative and the support to women entrepreneurs.

In the area of elections, the Mission helps electoral management bodies ensure that electoral systems function properly and fairly.

# 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 effectively prevent and combat transnational threats, and foster a safe environment for all communities in Kosovo. It primarily focuses on provision of capacity building support to the police and other law enforcement agencies to enhance their skills in fighting various crimes. It assists government and public safety entities in drafting, reviewing and implementing numerous development strategies and action plans, as well as strategies aimed at promoting community policing and community safety, preventing and fighting organized crime, violent extremism, cybercrime, domestic violence and trafficking in human beings. The Mission also assists the Forensics Agency and police forensic unit to further enhance their forensic examination capacities.

Additionally, it supports the Police Inspectorate and Kosovo Police to strengthen and sustain functional police oversight mechanisms in addressing criminal and disciplinary offences allegedly committed by police employees. Capacity building assistance is also extended to the special police operation units to competently handle threats accompanied by critical incidents. Equally, the Mission continues to enhance the capacities of relevant agencies in investigating corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing, and confiscation of criminal assets.

To foster dialogue between communities and police, the Mission works to expand police-public partnerships. It has established a number of community safety forums to address local safety and security issues and is now working to establish and capacitate new ones across Kosovo.



The Mission works with law enforcement agencies to increase their skills in fighting various crimes, including investigating corruption. Its anti-corruption activities include capacity building, monitoring, and enhancing institutions' oversight and accountability. In 2019, the Mission organized a high-level conference on preventing and combating grand corruption.

The Mission also works with community policing and community safety fora, engaging them in preventing violent extremism, trafficking in human beings and violence against women including domestic violence at the grassroots level.

The Mission provides support in increasing the share of women in police ranks and

It also engages with youth, especially on preventing the use of narcotics, and with press and public information offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its agencies to enhance their communication with the public. It monitors police responses to cases of hate crime and constantly enhances officers' capacities to effectively investigate bias motivation.

# Facts and figures

## Head of Mission



**Ambassador Jan Braathu**

## Deputy Head of Mission

**Kilian Wahl**

## Staffing



497 posts, made up of 117 international and 380 local staff. The Mission's personnel is based at the headquarters in Prishtinë/Priština and five regional centres - Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/Priština and Prizren.

## Budget for 2020



**17,462,600 Euros**

## Follow OSCE



## OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Abdyl Frashëri, 37  
10000 Prishtinë/Priština

+383 38 240 100  
press.omik@osce.org  
www.osce.org/mission-in-kosovo  
@oscekosovo

