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 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 empowerment and their increased participation in decision making. It works to improve protection of their property and inheritance rights and raises awareness against gender based and domestic violence.

The Mission supports journalists in strengthening ethical, objective and independent reporting. It promotes safety of journalists and advocates for introduction of media and information literacy in 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 and Independent Media broadcaster, Press Council of Kosovo and Independent Media Commission, with the legal and regulatory framework in line with international standards and best practices through monitoring, reporting, and advocacy initiatives. It works with the media to strengthen capacities of media professionals. The Mission is committed to enhancing public awareness to safeguard the media profession and create a safer environment for journalists, as well as to expanding media and information literacy education. Through its flagship programs of the Media + Public Relations Policy Initiative and the Justice Transparency Forum, the Mission seeks to enhance media outreach and public communication of institutions and facilitates communication between journalists and justice institutions to enable accurate media reporting.

The Mission also engages youth and women in initiatives on meaningful and equal participation in public and political life, by organizing various traineeships and volunteer programmes, promoting dialogue and women empowerment through the OSCE Dialogue Academy for Young Women and related activities. Working with women’s caucuses on all levels, the Mission supports women in politics and to enhance gender equality in municipalities and the Assembly of Kosovo.

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 overseeing the executive branch and fulfilling their policymaking functions, and supports government bodies of all levels to 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, while engaging the public in decision making processes. The Mission strives to improve compliance of key media institutions, including the public broadcaster, Press Council of Kosovo and Independent Media Commission, with the legal and regulatory framework in line with international standards and best practices through monitoring, reporting, and advocacy initiatives. It works with the media to strengthen capacities of media professionals. The Mission is committed to enhancing public awareness to safeguard the media profession and create a safer environment for journalists, as well as to expanding media and information literacy education. Through its flagship programs of the Media + Public Relations Policy Initiative and the Justice Transparency Forum, the Mission seeks to enhance media outreach and public communication of institutions and facilitates communication between journalists and justice institutions to enable accurate media reporting.

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The Mission helps governmental management bodies to ensure that electoral processes function in line with international standards and to increase public confidence in the overall electoral process. As a joint EUSR-OSCE initiative, the Mission supports the Assembly of Kosovo ad-hoc Committee and its advisory election group on strengthening and improving the electoral process in Kosovo, based on the EU Election Observation Mission and recommendations of the UK Electoral Expert Mission. Finally, the Mission supports the Central Election Commission and Election Complaint and Appeal Panel to address EU and UK recommendations via their rules of procedures and secondary legislation.
What we do

Security and Public Safety

The Mission provides the Ministry of Internal Affairs and its public safety agencies with multifaceted support to 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 serious and organized 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 and terrorism, cybercrime, and trafficking in human beings.

To foster dialogue between communities and police, the Mission works to expand police-public partnerships. It established a number of community safety forums to address local safety and security issues and continues to establish and capacitate additional ones.

The Mission also assists the Forensics Agency and police forensic unit to further enhance their 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 and small arms and light weapons. Equally, the Mission continues to enhance the capacities of relevant agencies in addressing corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing, and confiscation of criminal assets.

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