

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.



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.

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 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 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, which preserves and protects cultural and religious heritage, the Mission contributes to full implementation of Special Protective Zones legislation and provides appropriate trainings.

As a key international actor, the Mission monitors the justice sector with regard to human rights, observing over 2,000 hearings every year in courts throughout Kosovo for compliance with rule of law and fair trial standards. Based on this monitoring, we support interventions that improve judicial and prosecutorial compliance with human rights standards, as well as performance and efficiency. We also work to strengthen Kosovo institutions and civil society organizations promoting and protecting human rights or ensuring that victims of crimes or human rights violations receive adequate protection, redress and/or remedy.

The Mission also supports drafting and reviews draft legislation and policy documents to be in accordance with international human rights standards and rule of law principles. In addition to the promotion of interfaith dialogue, the Mission supports the strengthening of relations of religious communities with institutions and their participation in local security mechanisms as well as supporting their engagement in preventing and combating violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism (P/C VERLT). In addition, the Mission supports institutions for the reintegration of repatriated persons from conflict areas.

Trainings and internships in the area of rule of law, women's rights protection, sexual assault and sexual harassment, 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's gender equality priority, the Department works with institutions and NGOs to address domestic violence and ensure protection of victim's rights. The Mission is engaged in improving support from relevant actors for victims of gender-based violence and domestic violence, by monitoring implementation of the legal and policy framework, strengthen capacities of service providers in protecting victims of domestic violence, and raising public awareness on victim's rights.

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.

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.

The Mission helps electoral 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

(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 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.

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. 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.

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 works with community policing and community



The Mission works with law enforcement agencies to foster a safe environment for all communities in Kosovo. Activities include training, monitoring and enhancing institutions' oversight and accountability.

safety fora, engaging them in preventing violent 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 provides support to increase the number of women in police ranks and managerial positions through training, awareness raising and advocacy/mentorship support, as well as through assistance in the implementation of the newly developed strategic police

gender equality agenda.

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 hate crime cases and enhances officers' capacities to investigate bias motivation as well as the abilities of the Ombudsperson Institution and Police Inspectorate to monitor such incidences. Finally, the Mission offers expertise and advisory assistance to the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety in strengthening its capacities and internal quality control of trainings.

Facts and figures



Head of Mission
Ambassador Michael Davenport

Deputy Head of Mission
Kilian Wahl



Staffing
490.5 posts, 115 international and 375.5 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 2021
17,462,600 Euros

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