

20
years

of milestones

osce

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



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1 July 1999

The OSCE Permanent Council, on its 237th Plenary Meeting, took the Decision no. 305 to establish the **OSCE Mission in Kosovo** giving the Mission the leading role in matters relating to institution and democracy building and human rights.



Highlights of the Permanent Council decision no. 305

Following the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, on 1 July 1999 the OSCE Permanent Council adopted Decision 305 setting up the OSCE Mission in Kosovo and tasking it with the lead role in matters relating to institution- and democracy-building and human rights.

In particular, the Decision requests that the OSCE Mission in Kosovo concentrates its work in the following interrelated areas:

1. Human resources capacity-building, including the training of a new Kosovo police service within a Kosovo Police School which it will establish and operate, the training of judicial personnel and the training of civil administrators at various levels, in co-operation, *inter alia*, with the Council of Europe;
2. Democratization and governance, including the development of a civil society, non-governmental organizations, political parties and local media;
3. Organization and supervision of elections;
4. Monitoring, protection and promotion of human rights, including, *inter alia*, the establishment of an Ombudsman institution, in co-operation, *inter alia*, with the UNHCHR;

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo will in its work be guided by the importance of bringing about mutual respect and reconciliation among all ethnic groups in Kosovo and of establishing a viable multi-ethnic society where the rights of each citizen are fully and equally respected.

A photograph of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo building facade. The building is a multi-story structure with a balcony on the upper floor. The balcony has a black metal railing and a row of decorative balustrades. The facade is light-colored with classical architectural elements like columns and capitals. A large sign is mounted on the facade, featuring the OSCE logo and the text 'Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe' and 'Mission in Kosovo'.

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

Who we are

The Mission in Kosovo is an OSCE field operation headquartered in Prishtinë/Priština and maintains five regional offices located in Gjiilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, and Prizren, as well as in Prishtinë/Priština itself.

What we do

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo, one of the largest OSCE field operations, runs a wide array of activities in the field of human rights, democratization and public safety. Over the years, the role of the OSCE Mission has been instrumental in developing and supporting the functioning of democratic institutions and civic participation in decision-making. It also focuses a major part of its work on the promotion and protection of human rights and the wellbeing of non majority communities. Maintaining an effective and democratic public safety sector is another continued priority. The work of the mission continues to evolve within a framework of its mandate, OSCE Permanent Council decision 305 (1999), and in cooperation with our stakeholders.

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stones

through the years →

1999

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports establishment of the justice system

- The support included helping to establish the Joint Advisory Council on Provisional Judicial Appointments, court monitoring and facilitating the appointment of the first judges and prosecutors.



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Establishes the Kosovo Police Service School, now Kosovo Academy for Public Safety

- Developed and provided extensive training for police cadets. Today, Kosovo Police is a highly-trusted, democratic and professional law enforcement agency serving all communities in Kosovo.



Establishes Radio Television of Kosovo (RTK)

- As a public broadcaster, RTK's objective is to ensure programming of high professional standards in the interest of the public. RTK continues to produce a diverse range of programmes over its four television and two radio channels.



2000

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Establishes the Kosovo Law Centre (KLC)

- The KLC is a non-governmental organization that promotes democratic principles and the rule of law.

Establishes the Chamber of Advocates

- The Chamber is a self-governed organisation advocating for equal representation for all under the rule of law and supporting legal reforms that benefit the public.

Establishes the Ombudsperson Institution (OIK)

- The OIK is a legal mechanism for the protection, monitoring and promotion of human rights and freedoms. It investigates human rights violations and issues decisions for improvements.



Establishes the Kosovo Judicial Institute, now Kosovo Academy of Justice

- The Academy is an independent public institution providing training for judges and prosecutors, administrative staff and free professionals.

Administers the first democratic municipal elections in Kosovo



Establishes the Central Election Commission (CEC)

- The CEC is the body responsible for organization and implementation of elections in Kosovo. It was chaired by the OSCE Mission until 2008.

Establishes the Elections Complaints and Appeals Panel (ECAP) and its Secretariat

- ECAP is a permanent body that reviews and decides on complaints and appeals related to the electoral process.

2001

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Administers the first democratic assembly elections in Kosovo



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Supports the establishment of the first municipal return and community rights mechanisms

- The Municipal Community Officer, Municipal Returns Officer, Municipal Working Groups and Task Forces on Returns support the return and reintegration of displaced persons.

2002

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports the launch of Dokufest film festival

- Dokufest started as an initiative of a group of friends wanting to create a cultural event that would re-establish links between movie makers in the region. It has since grown into a successful documentary film festival that attracts international artists and audiences.



Administers the second democratic municipal elections in Kosovo

2003

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Establishes the Kosovo Media Association (KOSMA)

- KOSMA is a network of Serbian-language radio stations, still functioning today.

Establishes the Central Election Commission Secretariat (CECS)

- As its operational arm, the Secretariat assists the CEC in its electoral duties, providing expert advice and recommendations.



2004

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Organizes and supervises the second democratic assembly elections in Kosovo



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2005

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports the establishment of the Independent Media Commission (IMC)

- The Commission regulates the audio-visual media services and safeguards ethical reporting and freedom of expression in Kosovo. It also plays a crucial role in monitoring the compliance of media coverage during election campaigns.

Supports the establishment of the Press Council of Kosovo (PCK)

- The PCK remains a defender of the rights of citizens and journalists, protecting the public from false information and reporters from undue criticism.



2006

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Establishes the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo (PIK)

- The role of the PIK is to investigate potential criminal offences committed by Kosovo Police officers, regardless of rank or position.



Starts the establishment of Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSC) and Local Public Safety Committees (LPSC)

- These local public safety mechanisms bring together community representatives, the police, municipal administration, and the non-governmental sector to identify and address key local community problems.

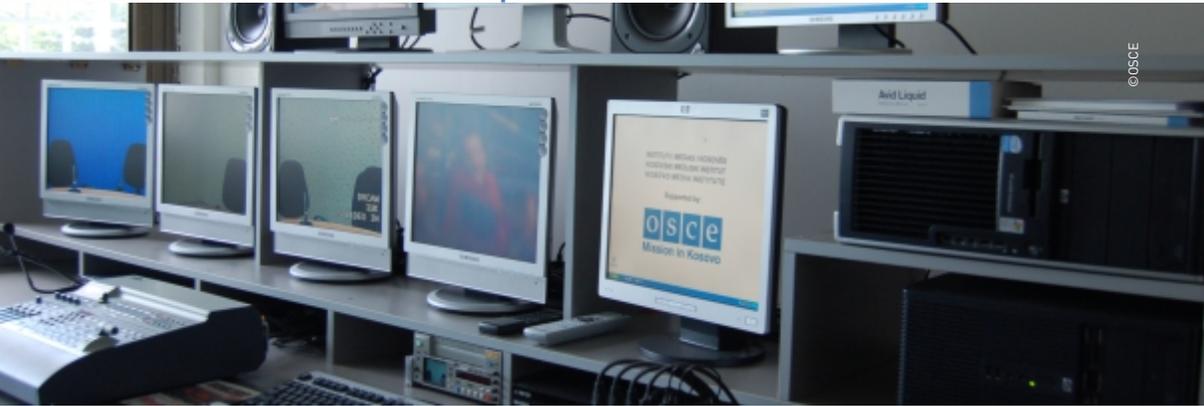
2007

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Organizes and supervises municipal, mayoral and Kosovo assembly elections

Establishes the Kosovo Media Institute (KMI)

- The KMI serves as a mid-career training centre to enhance the professional skills of journalists in Kosovo.



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2008

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports the establishment of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC)

- The CCC is a central level body for community participation in the Kosovo legislative and decision making processes. It serves as a forum for dialogue between government and minorities on relevant issues, enhancing inter-community cohesion.



2009

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports Kosovo government Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities (2009 – 2015)

- The Mission supported the development and implementation of the first-ever Kosovo Government strategy for these communities. The strategy established institutional mechanisms to co-ordinate efforts and outlined actionable policies and activities to foster their integration.



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2010

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports the establishment of the Youth and Women caucuses in the Assembly of Kosovo

- The caucuses help to strengthen the voice and role of women and youth inside the Kosovo Assembly and in general.



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2011

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports the Kosovo Forensic Agency

- The Mission began its support to the Agency in 2011 and continued throughout the years. This has included training in forensic techniques, accreditation of its laboratories, and donating a significant amount of forensics hardware and software.



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2012

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports the establishment of the Office of the Language Commissioner

- The Language Commissioner, part of the Office of the Prime Minister, oversees the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages and promotes multilingualism in Kosovo.



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Launches the “Follow Us” initiative

- The initiative brought together prominent women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade to promote dialogue and co-operation. Over 20 meetings were held under its auspices, which paved the way for future inter-community activities.

Facilitates the Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections in Kosovo

2013

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Facilitates Kosovo municipal and mayoral elections in the four northern municipalities

Joins the Implementation and Monitoring Council

- The Council ensures proper implementation of the Law on Special Protective Zones, which safeguards Serbian Orthodox churches and other heritage sites.

Contributes to the functionalization of the Council for Cultural Heritage of Prizren and the Council for Velika Hoča/Hočë e Madhe

- The Councils provide protection to significant cultural centers, preventing the destruction of historic buildings.



2014

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Facilitates a collection of ballots operation for Serbian parliamentary elections in Kosovo

Supports the conduct of early Kosovo Assembly elections in the four northern municipalities



Launches the Skopje Process

- The Skopje Process is a platform for regional dialogue and co-operation on durable solutions for displaced persons from Kosovo. In subsequent years, the Mission facilitated the establishment of implementation mechanisms for the Skopje Process action points for durable solutions.

2015

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Launches the first OSCE Dialogue Academy for young women from Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade

- As part of the “Follow Us” initiative, the OSCE helped to facilitate the Dialogue Academy for young women, many of them students or social activists. Academy participants engage in teambuilding exercises, negotiation role-plays, gender-related lectures, and discussions with members from the initiative. After four editions, almost 100 alumnae have been engaged in joint projects across both societies.



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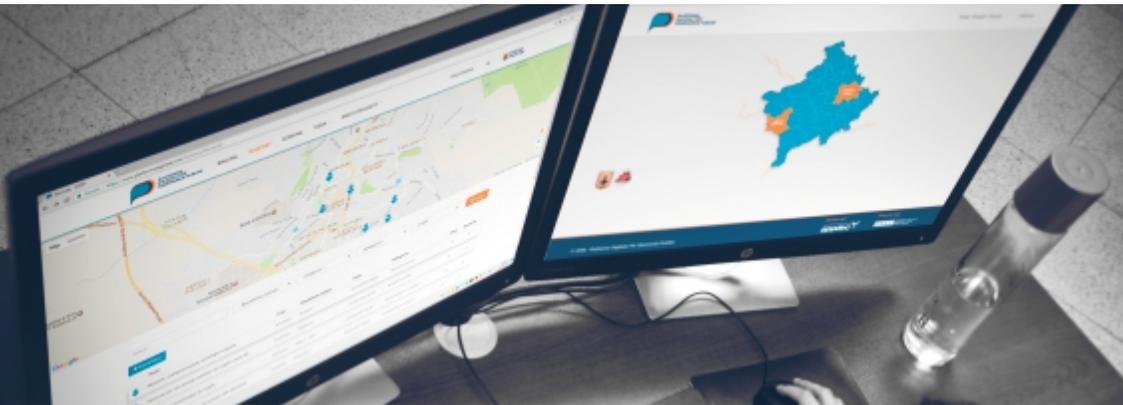
2016

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Facilitates a collection of ballots operation for Serbian parliamentary elections in Kosovo

Launches the Digital Platform for Public Participation (DPPP)

- The Platform is a tool for improving public communication between local level institutions and residents, improving the transparency of municipal work. It was initially launched in Prishtinë/Priština and Gjakovë/Đakovica and more municipalities are expected to join soon.



2017

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Facilitates a collection of ballots operation for Serbian parliamentary elections in Kosovo

Supports the conduct of early Kosovo Assembly elections in the four northern municipalities

Supports the conduct of municipal and mayoral elections in the four northern municipalities

Launches the Media Fellowship program

Each year, fellows attend seminars and visit media institutions, gaining first-hand experience in the functions of journalism.

- The program brings young and emerging journalists from different communities together and pairs them with established journalists, who serve as their mentors.



2018

- The agreement between the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Police, Prosecutor's Office, and Kosovo Judicial Council upgrades the system for treatment of hate crimes in Kosovo.

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Supports and advocates for regulation on displaced persons

- Regulation 01/2018 is the first legislative document addressing displacement issues in Kosovo.

Facilitates inter-agency agreement on hate crimes

Supports co-operation among journalists associations

- In 2018, the European Federation of Journalists adopted a resolution, jointly proposed by associations of journalists in Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade, requesting that the cases of murdered and missing journalists from the 1998–2005 period are addressed. The OSCE Mission facilitated co-operation between the two associations with a focus on killed and missing journalists.



2019

the OSCE Mission in Kosovo:

Launches joint OSCE/EU initiative on strengthening electoral processes

- All Kosovo Assembly caucuses signed a joint declaration through which they initiated a process of implementing EU election observation missions' recommendations.



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Supports the conduct of the extraordinary mayoral elections in the four northern municipalities

Supports the conduct of early Kosovo Assembly elections in the four northern municipalities

facts
and
figures

Facts and figures

Produced over **270** reports

on criminal, civil and administrative justice in Kosovo, bilingual legislation, property rights, expropriations, returns, communities access to education, shelters for victims of domestic violence, human trafficking, performance of the Assembly, independent institutions, budget processes in municipalities, freedom of media, community safety, and language compliance in Kosovo Police.

Supported around **60** strategies and action plans

on a wide range of topics, including against organized crime, violent extremism that may lead to terrorism, domestic violence, gender equality, integration of vulnerable communities, youth, local self-government, media digitalization.

Facilitated over **30** camps for youth of different communities

on cultural heritage, journalism, inter-community relations, religious tolerance, community safety, basketball, and mini-Olympic games for people with disabilities.

Around **23,000** court cases monitored,
involving around **33,000** hearings

Since 2008, the Mission reviewed and provided
comments to around **320** pieces of legislation

Out of 21 Municipal Coordination Mechanisms against Domestic Violence
throughout Kosovo, **12** are established by the OSCE Mission.

OSCE supported Inter-Municipal Declarations for Promotion of
Inter-Community Dialogue and Co-operation were signed by
29 municipalities across five regions.

The OSCE Mission organizes numerous training sessions, workshops,
conferences and public information campaigns on regular basis.

OSCE Mission leadership



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Ambassador **Jan Braathu** of Norway is the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo since 1 October 2016.

Former Heads of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo

2012-2016 **Jean-Claude Schlumberger** (France)

2008-2012 **Werner Almhofer** (Austria)

2007-2008 **Tim Guldemann** (Switzerland)

2005-2007 **Werner Wnendt** (Germany)

2002-2005 **Pascal Fieschi** (France)

1999-2001 **Daan Everts** (Netherlands)

moving forward

milestones
comes