AREA AND POPULATION

The municipality of Gjilan/Gnjilane is located in south-eastern Kosovo, covering an area of approximately 385 km². It includes the city of Gjilan/Gnjilane and 42 villages. According to the 2011 Kosovo Population and Housing Census, the total population is 90,178.

1. Kosovo Albanians
2. Kosovo Turks
3. Kosovo Serbs
4. Kosovo Roma
5. Kosovo Bosnian
6. Kosovo Gorani
7. Kosovo Ashkali
8. Kosovo Egyptian
9. Other
10. Not specified

According to the census conducted in 1981, there were 59,764 Kosovo Albanians, 19,212 Kosovo Serbs and 174 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality; according to the census conducted in 1991*, there were 79,357 Kosovo Albanians, 19,370 Kosovo Serbs and 155 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality.

According to the UNHCR statistics, 1,308 displaced persons have returned to the municipality since 1999, of them 697 Kosovo Serbs, 604 Kosovo Roma, five (5) Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptians and two (2) Kosovo Gorani.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL OVERVIEW

The total number of voters in Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality registered for the municipal elections held in 2017 (1st round in October and 2nd round in November) was 100,399, including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout in 1st round was 46.81% or 46,999 voters and in 2nd round it was 33.81% or 33,940 voters (source: Central Election Commission).

The 2017 municipal assembly election results were as follows:

- LDK Democratic League of Kosovo: 34.35%
- Vetevendosje! (Self-Determination) Movement: 20.08%
- PDK Democratic Party of Kosovo: 17.15%
- AAK Alliance for Future of Kosovo: 11.51%
- NISMA Social Democratic Initiative: 4.62%
- AKR Alliance New Kosovo: 4.57%
- KDTP Kosovo Turkish Democratic Party: 1.93%
- VATRA Civic Movement VATRA: 1.75%
- SL Serbian List: 1.54%

The current seat distribution is as follows:

- 11 seats
- 6* seats
- 6 seats
- 4 seats
- 2 seats
- 2 seats
- 1 seat
- 1 seat
- 1 seat
- 1 seat

1. The overall population figure presented above is taken from the 2011 census (or authoritative estimates where the census figure is not available), whereas the voters list is a reflection of all people with a civil registration entry in the municipality. In some cases, the voters list figure is higher than or similar to the overall population number due to insufficient updating of the civil registry or a significant proportion of people registered in the municipality but actually living elsewhere or abroad.

* Following the elections, one (1) Vetevendosje! member resigned from the party and joined the Social Democratic Party (PSD).

** In May 2018, members who previously resigned from Vetevendosje! joined the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and assumed its leadership. This occurred after the 2017 municipal elections and for that reason PSD is not reflected in the election results chart, but only in the municipal assembly seat distribution category above.

*The 1991 census is not accepted by Kosovo Albanians as legitimate.
GJILAN/GNJILANE

LEGISLATIVE

The municipal assembly has 35 seats distributed among ten (10) political entities, 33 members are Kosovo Albanian, one (1) is Kosovo Serb and one (1) is Kosovo Turk; 13 are women. The Municipal Assembly Chairperson is Shpresa Kurtishi-Emini (LDK).

EXECUTIVE

Structure of municipal executive and the executive’s political affiliations.

The municipality is headed by Mayor Lutfi Haziri (LDK), re-elected for his fourth term as mayor with 63.81% of votes in the second round of the 2017 municipal elections. In the 2013 municipal elections, Mayor Haziri won with 59.99% of votes in the second round. Deputy Mayor is Arbër Ismajli (LDK).

There are 12 municipal departments. Two (2) departments are run by women directors: economic development (independent candidate with civil society background) and culture, youth and sports (LDK), ten (10) departments are run by men directors: cadastre, geodesy and property (LDK); agriculture and forestry (LDK); inspection (LDK); budget and finance (LDK); public utilities (LDK); administration (LDK); education (AAK); health and social welfare (AAK); protection and rescue (AKR); and urbanism (independent candidate with civil society background). In the previous mandate (2013-2017), three (3) directors were women (source: Mayor).

JUDICIARY

Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court has 38 judges in total. 32 are Kosovo Albanian and six (6) are Kosovo Serb; nine (9) are women and 29 are men. It has branches in Kamenicë/Kamenica, Novo Brdo/Novobërë and Viti/Vitina and also covers Klokot/Kllokot, Panteš/Pantesh and Ranilug/Ranillug municipalities (source: Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court).

The Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Prosecution Office has 17 prosecutors, 16 are Kosovo Albanian and one (1) is a Kosovo Serb. Two (2) men and seven (7) women. In addition to Gjilan/Gnjilane, the Office also covers Kamenicë/Kamenica, Klokot/Kllokot, Novo Brdo/Novobërë, Panteš/Pantesh, Ranilug/Ranillug and Viti/Vitina municipalities (source: Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Prosecution Office).

SECURITY PRESENCE

The Kosovo Police station in Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality has 152 police officers, 125 are Kosovo Albanian, 22 Kosovo Serb, four (4) Kosovo Turk and one (1) Kosovo Montenegrin; 40 are women.

The Kosovo Police regional directorate, regional traffic unit and specialized regional units are located in Gjilan/Gnjilane city and employ 133 officers, 121 are Kosovo Albanian, seven (7) Kosovo Serb, three (3) Kosovo Turk and two (2) Kosovo Bosniak; 29 are women.

As for the international military presence, the United States KFOR covers the area (source: Kosovo Police).

ECONOMY

The economy of Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality is predominantly based on small businesses. There are approximately 4,100 registered active private businesses operating in the municipality employing over 6,700 people (source: municipal directorate of economy and development).

PUBLIC SERVICES

Infrastructure

The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality is assessed as good. All the main roads connecting villages with the urban centre are asphalted. Gjilan/Gnjilane city and 14 out of 42 villages are connected to water supply system, while Gjilan/Gnjilane city and 20 villages are connected to sewage system. Power supply is no longer a problem (source: municipal directorate of public services).

Health

The primary health care system includes one (1) main municipal family health centre, 13 municipal family health centres, ten (10) health houses, and one (1) mobile health house. The municipal health sector has 282 employees, 262 Kosovo Albanian, eight (8) Kosovo Serb, ten (10) Kosovo Turk, one (1) Kosovo Roma and one (1) other (source: municipal directorate of health and social welfare).

There are three (3) Serbia-run healthcare facilities in the municipality, one (1) main health building in the Kosovo Serb village of Šilovo/Shillovë, one (1) in Gjilan/Gnjilane town (in Serbian Orthodox Church compound) and one (1) in the mixed Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb inhabited village of Ponesh/Poneš.

In addition, Gjilan/Gnjilane also has a regional hospital located in the city that employs 549 staff, 541 Kosovo Albanian, four (4) Kosovo Turk, two (2) Kosovo Serb, one (1) Kosovo Bosniak and one (1) other.

All communities have access to health care and facilities. However, many Kosovo Serbs travel to Gračanica/Graćanice municipality, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North municipality, or outside of Kosovo for secondary health care services (source: personnel office of Gjilan/Gnjilane regional hospital).
MUNICIPAL PROFILE

In Gjilan/Gnjilane there are:

• 35 seats in the municipal assembly distributed among 10 political entities
• 152 police officers in the stations and 133 in the regional command
• 38 judges and 17 prosecutors
• 1,460 teachers in 29 primary and 9 secondary schools and 4 kindergartens
• 1 public university

KEY FACTS

In Gjilan/Gnjilane there are:

• 35 seats in the municipal assembly distributed among 10 political entities
• 152 police officers in the stations and 133 in the regional command
• 38 judges and 17 prosecutors
• 1,460 teachers in 29 primary and 9 secondary schools and 4 kindergartens
• 1 public university

Education

There are 29 primary schools, 25 following Kosovo curriculum, four (4) following Serbian curriculum, with 12,370 pupils (12,023 Kosovo Albanians, 236 Kosovo Serbs, 75 Kosovo Roma and 36 Kosovo Turks) and 1,014 teachers (949 Kosovo Albanians, 40 Kosovo Serbs, four (4) Kosovo Roma and 21 Kosovo Turks). There are nine (9) secondary schools, seven (7) following Kosovo curriculum, two (2) following Serbian curriculum, with 5,650 students (5,449 Kosovo Albanians, 185 Kosovo Serbs and 16 Kosovo Turks), and 409 teachers (390 Kosovo Albanians, 16 Kosovo Serbs and three (3) Kosovo Turks). There are four (4) kindergartens, three (3) with primarily Kosovo Albanians in town and one (1) with primarily Kosovo Serbs in Šilovo/Shillovë village financed by the Kosovo government, with 350 pupils (310 Kosovo Albanians and 40 Kosovo Serb), and 37 teachers (35 Kosovo Albanians and two (2) Kosovo Serbs).

A public university “Kadri Zeka” is also based in Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality (source: municipal directorate of education).

Religious and cultural sites

There are 41 mosques in Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality, of them one (1) is not in use. There are eight (8) Orthodox churches, two (2) were destroyed following the 1999 conflict and are not in use, one (1) was damaged after the 1999 conflict but was immediately reconstructed and has since been in use. The remaining five (5) churches were not damaged and are in use (source: representatives of religious communities).

A total of 64 cultural heritage sites (27 archaeological and 37 architectural) in Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality are included in the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport list of sites under permanent/temporary protection.