KAMENICË/KAMENICA

423 km² area
56 villages
36,085 population

The municipality of Kamenicë/Kamenica is located in the eastern part of Kosovo covering an area of approximately 423 km². It includes Kamenicë/Kamenica town and 56 villages. According to the 2011 Kosovo Population and Housing Census, the total population is 36,085.

GOVERNING STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL OVERVIEW

The total number of voters in Kamenicë/Kamenica municipality registered for the municipal elections held in 2017 (1st round in October and 2nd round in November) was 38,013¹, including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout in 1st round was 48.15% or 18,304 voters and in 2nd round it was 42.09% or 16,000 voters (source: Central Election Commission).

The 2017 municipal assembly election results were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party/Movement</th>
<th>Seats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LDK Democratic League of Kosovo</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vetëvendosje! Self-determination Movement</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDK Democratic Party of Kosovo</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAK Alliance for Future of Kosovo</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AKR Alliance New Kosovo</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SL Serbian List</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NISMA Social Democratic Initiative</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The current seat distribution is as follows:

<table>
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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.

Ethnic composition

1. Kosovo Albanians
2. Kosovo Serbs
3. Kosovo Roma
4. Kosovo Gorani
5. Kosovo Bosniaks
6. Kosovo Turks
7. Other
8. Not specified

According to the census conducted in 1981, there were 32,390 Kosovo Albanians, 14,813 Kosovo Serbs and 60 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality; according to the census conducted in 1991*, there were 38,096 Kosovo Albanians, 12,762 Kosovo Serbs and 58 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality.

According to the UNHCR statistics, 683 displaced persons have returned to the municipality since 1999, of them 515 Kosovo Serbs, 162 Kosovo Roma and six (6) Kosovo Bosniaks.

*The 1991 census is not accepted by Kosovo Albanians as legitimate.
The municipal assembly has 27 seats distributed among seven (7) political entities, 25 members are Kosovo Albanian and two (2) are Kosovo Serb; 11 are women. The Municipal Assembly Chairperson is Bajram Mavriqi (Vetëvendosje!).

**EXECUTIVE**

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

The municipality is headed by Mayor Qëndron Kastrati (Social Democratic Party - PSD)*, elected for his first term as mayor with 55.6% of votes in the second round of the 2017 municipal elections. In the previous term, the mayor was Begzad Sinani (PDK), who was elected in the second round of the 2013 municipal elections with 55.07% of the votes. Deputy Mayor is Faton Jakupi (AAK) and Deputy Mayor for Communities is Bojan Stamenković (independent candidate)**.

There are 11 municipal departments. Six (6) departments are run by women directors: general administration (Vetëvendosje!); cadaster, geodesy and property (AAK); education (Vetëvendosje!); economic development and diaspora (Vetëvendosje!); urbanism and spatial planning (Vetëvendosje!); and emergency rescue and protection (AAK), five (5) departments are run by men: economy budget and finance (Vetëvendosje!); agriculture, forestry and rural development (AAK); culture, youth and sport (Vetëvendosje!); health and social welfare (Vetëvendosje!); and public services (AAK). In the previous mandate (2013-2017), three (3) directors were women.

*In the 2017 municipal elections, Mayor Kastrati ran as a Vetëvendosje! candidate. In May 2018, members who previously resigned from Vetëvendosje! joined the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and assumed its leadership.

**According to the Law on Local Self-Government, a municipality with less than ten (10) per cent of residents belonging to communities in a numerical minority is not required to appoint a deputy mayor for communities, but the position can be established if proposed by the Mayor and approved by the municipal assembly.

**JUDICIARY**

The Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court has a branch in Kamenicë/Kamenica with four (4) judges, three (3) are Kosovo Albanian and one (1) is Kosovo Serb; three (3) men and one (1) woman.

The Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Prosecutor’s Office covers the municipality (source: Kamenicë/Kamenica branch of Gjilan/Gnjilane Basic Court).

**SECURITY PRESENCE**

The Kosovo Police station in Kamenicë/Kamenica municipality has 85 police officers, 73 Kosovo are Albanian and 12 are Kosovo Serb; 14 are women. Of them, 12 police officers are stationed in the police sub-station in Muqivercë/Mučiverce village.

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

**PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Infrastructure**

The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality is assessed as poor. Most of the main roads connecting villages with the urban centre are not asphalted. Kamenicë/Kamenica town and 47 out of 56 villages are connected to water supply and sewage systems. Power supply is still a problem, especially in the villages (source: municipal development plan).

**Health**

The primary health care system currently includes one (1) main municipal family health centre, three (3) family health care centres and 17 health houses, of them five (5) are Serbia-run. The health sector has 147 employees, including doctors, nurses and support staff; 88 are women and 59 men.

All communities have access to health care and all health facilities (source: municipal directorate of health and social welfare).

**Education**

There are 20 primary schools, 17 following Kosovo curriculum, three (3) following Serbian curriculum, with 4,482 pupils (3,999 Kosovo Albanian, 423 Kosovo Serbs, 60 Kosovo Roma) and 406 teachers (325 Kosovo Albanian and 81 Kosovo Serbs), four (4) secondary schools three (3) following Kosovo curriculum and one (1) Serbian curriculum, with 1,085 students (793 Kosovo Albanian, 272 Kosovo Serb and 20 Kosovo Roma) and 176 teachers (131 Kosovo Albanian and 45 Kosovo Serb) and two (2) kindergartens with 60 children and ten (10) teachers, all Kosovo Albanian (source: municipal directorate of education).

**ECONOMY**

The economy of Kamenicë/Kamenica municipality is predominantly based on bricks and alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverage production, and general small businesses. There are approximately 2,210 registered private businesses operating in the municipality. The number of employed persons in the private sector is around 3624 (source: municipal department of budget and finances).
In Kamenicë/Kamenica there are:

- 27 seats in the municipal assembly distributed among 7 political entities
- 85 police officers
- 4 judges
- 592 teachers in 20 primary and 4 secondary schools and 2 kindergartens

Kamenicë/Kamenica has 28 mosques, none of which was damaged during the 1999 conflict. There are ten (10) Serbian Orthodox churches, seven (7) of which are in use, and one (1) ruin of a medieval Serbian Orthodox monastery. The Serbian Orthodox churches in Petroc/Petrovice and Koretin/Koretin villages were destroyed after the 1999 conflict and are not reconstructed. The Orthodox church in Shipashnicë e Poshtme/Donja Šipašnica was burned following the 1999 conflict and is not in use. The Serbian Orthodox church in Kamenicë/Kamenica town was in poor condition until it was renovated in 2012.

A total of 44 cultural heritage sites (21 archaeological and 23 architectural) in Kamenicë/Kamenica municipality are included in the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport list of sites under permanent/temporary protection.