The municipality of Vushtrri/Vučitrn is located in north-western Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 344 km² and includes Vushtrri/Vučitrn town and 64 villages. According to the 2011 Kosovo Population and Housing Census, the total population is 69,870.

Area and Population

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Ethnic Composition

According to the census conducted in 1981, there were 57,351 Kosovo Albanians, 6,091 Kosovo Serbs and 381 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality; according to the census conducted in 1991*, there were 71,354 Kosovo Albanians, 5,522 Kosovo Serbs and 269 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality.

According to the UNHCR statistics, 795 displaced persons have returned to the municipality since 1999, of them 521 Kosovo Serbs, 65 Kosovo Roma, 207 Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptians, one (1) Kosovo Gorani and one (1) Kosovo Turk.

Government Structures and Political Overview

The total number of voters in Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality registered for the last municipal elections held in 2017 (1st round in October and 2nd round in November) was 71,978, including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout in 1st round was 44.39% or 31,953 voters and in 2nd round it was 39.38% or 28,344 voters (source: Central Election Commission).

The current seat distribution is as follows:

- PDK Democratic Party of Kosovo: 11 seats
- Vetëvendosje! (Self-Determination) Movement: 7 seats
- LDK Democratic League of Kosovo: 6 seats
- AAK Alliance for Future of Kosovo: 3 seats
- AKR Alliance New Kosovo: 3 seats
- LB Movement for Unification: 2 seats
- NISMA Social Democratic Initiative: 1 seat
- SL Serbian List: 1 seat
- PD Justice Party: 1 seat
- PDK Democratic Party of Kosovo: 11 seats
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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.

*The 1991 census is not accepted by Kosovo Albanians as legitimate.
LEGISLATIVE

The municipal assembly has 35 seats distributed among nine (9) political entities, 34 members are Kosovo Albanian and one (1) is Kosovo Serb; 13 are women. The Municipal Assembly Chairperson is Nasuf Aliu (AKR).

EXECUTIVE

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

Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality is headed by Mayor Xhafer Tahiri (LDK), elected for his first term as mayor with 54.24% of votes in the second round of the 2017 municipal elections. In the previous term, the mayor was Bajram Mulaku (PDK), who was elected in the second round of the 2013 municipal elections with 55.20% of the votes. Deputy Mayor is Besim Muzaqi (Vetëvendosje!).

There are 12 municipal departments. Two (2) departments are run by women directors: public procurement (LDK) and culture, youth and sport (Vetëvendosje!), ten (10) departments are run by men directors: administration (Vetëvendosje!); budget and finance (LDK); education (LDK); health and social welfare (Vetëvendosje!); urbanism and environmental protection (LDK); geodesy, cadastral and property (LDK); public services (Vetëvendosje!); economy, agriculture, forestry and rural development (Vetëvendosje!); protection and safety (AKR); and inspection (AAK); In the previous mandate (2013-2017), three (3) directors were women (source: municipal information office).

JUDICIARY

Mitrovica/Mitrovica Basic Court has a branch in Vushtrri/Vučitrn with six (6) judges, all Kosovo Albanian men (source: Kosovo Judicial Council).

Mitrovica/Mitrovica Basic Prosecutor’s Office covers the municipality.

SECURITY PRESENCE

The Kosovo Police station in Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality, including sub-station in Priliužje/Prelluzhë village, has 99 police officers, 92 are Kosovo Albanian, six (6) are Kosovo Serb and one (1) is Kosovo Bosniak; 18 are women (source: Kosovo Police)

As for the international military presence, Slovenian KFOR covers the area (source: KFOR).

ECONOMY

The economy of Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality is predominantly based on agriculture, small trade businesses, and wood processing industry. There are approximately 3,000 registered private businesses operating in the municipality. The estimated number of people employed in the private sector is 6,000 (source: municipal business registration centre).

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. Vushtrri/Vučitrn town is connected to water and sewage systems, while 29 villages have water supply and 22 are connected to sewage systems (source: directorate of urbanism and environmental protection).

Health

The primary health care system includes one (1) main family health centre, nine (9) family health centres, three (3) in the town, and six (6) in the villages, and nine (9) primary health care stations. Municipal health sector has 205 employees, including doctors, nurses and support staff; 144 women and 61 men. Health services in the Kosovo Serb villages are provided by the health house in Priliužje/Prelluzhë, which has village ‘ambulanta’ in Banja/Bajskić, Grace/Gracë, and Gojbulja/Gojbulë under Serbia-run system (source: municipal directorate of health and social welfare).

Education

There are 32 primary schools with 10,126 pupils and 856 teachers and technical staff, three (3) secondary schools with 3,570 pupils and 258 teachers and technical staff and one (1) kindergarten with 175 children and 29 teachers and technical staff (source: municipal directorate of education).

The Kosovo Serb village of Priliužje/Prelluzhë has one (1) secondary and one (1) primary school. There is also one (1) primary school in Grace/Gracë and one (1) in Gojbulja/Gojbulë and one (1) lower primary school (first to fourth grade) in Banja/Bajskić which follow the Serbian curriculum. These schools have some 400 pupils and 70 teachers and technical staff (source: head of municipal office for communities and return).
In Vushtrri/Vučitrn there are:

- 35 seats in the municipal assembly distributed among 9 political entities
- 99 police officers
- 6 judges
- 1,213 teachers and technical staff in 36 primary and 4 secondary schools and 1 kindergarten

**RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SITES**

Vushtrri/Vučitrn has 42 mosques, three (3) were burnt and five (5) damaged in the 1999 conflict and were reconstructed afterwards, 32 new mosques have been built after the conflict. There are six (6) Serbian Orthodox churches in the municipality. Three (3) Serbian Orthodox churches were damaged/destroyed during the March 2004 riots and were reconstructed and are in use. Three (3) other churches were damaged/destroyed and not reconstructed. The municipality has one Special Protective Zone, Vojinović’s Medieval Bridge/Old Bridge, which is under protection of the Kosovo Institute for Protection of Monuments (source: Head of Islamic Community in Vushtrri/Vučitrn and Archpriest in the Serbian Orthodox parish of Leposavić/Leposaviq).

A total of 29 cultural heritage sites in Vushtrri/Vučitrn municipality are included in the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport list of sites under permanent/temporary protection.