

1. AREA AND POPULATION

The municipality of Gračanica/Gračanicë is located in central Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 131 km² and includes Gračanica/Gračanicë town and 16 villages. The total population is approximately 10,500 (10,675 according to the Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011).

Ethnic composition:

1. Kosovo Serbs: 7,209
 2. Kosovo Albanians: 2,474
 3. Kosovo Roma: 745
 4. Kosovo Ashkali: 104
 5. Kosovo Gorani: 22
 6. Kosovo Turkish: 15
 7. Kosovo Bosnian: 15
 8. Kosovo Egyptian: 3
 9. Other: 45
 10. Not specified: 43
- (Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics)

Note: According to the special advisor to the mayor and the municipal development plan the total Kosovo Serb population in the municipality is approximately 21,500.

Gračanica/Gračanicë municipality was established in 2009. Municipal territory prior to that belonged to Prishtinë/Priština, Lipjan/Lipljan and Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje municipalities.

2. GOVERNING STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL OVERVIEW

The total number of voters in Gračanica/Gračanicë municipality registered for the last municipal elections held in November 2013 was 19,216 including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout was 54.6 per cent/10,495 voters (source: Central Election Commission).

The election results were as follows:

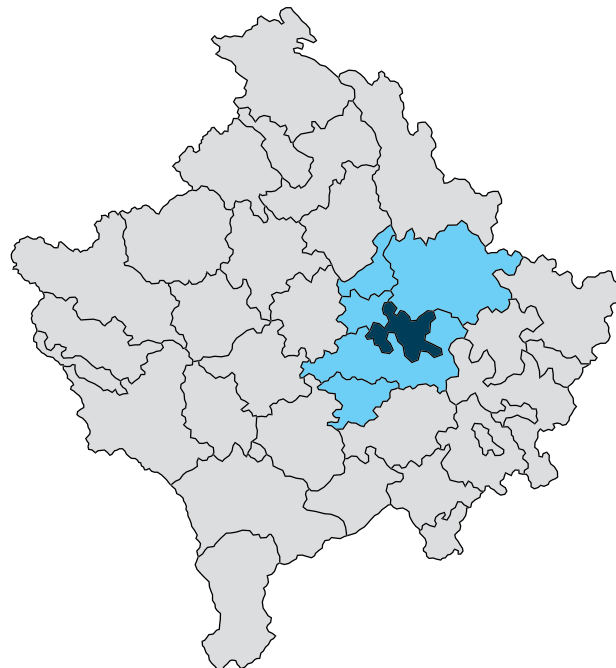
GIS - Citizen Initiative Srpska	45.2%	<div style="width: 45.2%;"></div>	9 seats
Union of Kosovo Serbs	27.1%	<div style="width: 27.1%;"></div>	6 seats
SLS - Independent Liberal Party	12.3%	<div style="width: 12.3%;"></div>	3 seats
Unified Serb List Vidovdan	6.9%	<div style="width: 6.9%;"></div>	1 seats

A. LEGISLATIVE

The municipal assembly has 19 seats distributed amongst four (4) political entities; all members are Kosovo Serbs, while six (6) are female. The municipal assembly chairperson is Brankica Kostić (GIS).

According to the law on local self-government, a municipality with more than ten (10) per cent of residents

The OSCE regional centre Prishtinë/Priština covers six (6) municipalities including Gračanica/Gračanicë and has field teams working in all of them.



belonging to communities in a numerical minority in that municipality is required to appoint a deputy municipal assembly chairperson for communities. At the time of writing Gračanica/Gračanicë municipal assembly had not yet appointed a deputy chairperson for communities.

B. EXECUTIVE

Structure of municipal executive and the executive's political affiliations

The municipality is headed by the mayor Vladeta Kostić (GIS), the deputy mayor Ljubinko Karadžić (GIS), and the deputy mayor for communities Sebastian Šerifović (Kosovo Roma, non-affiliated). The mayor further has an advisor for Kosovo Albanian community, Milazim Gashi (AAK-LDD). The municipality has seven (7) departments and department directors: administration (GIS); budget and finance (non-affiliated); education (non-affiliated), urbanism (SLS); public services, agriculture and forestry (GIS); health, social and family protection (GIS); and inspection (non-affiliated). Six (6) directors are male while one (1) is female (source: municipal web site).

3. JUDICIARY

Prishtinë/Priština basic court has a branch in Gračanica/Gračanicë. There should be two (2) judges but at the moment there is only one (Kosovo Serb female), while the second post is currently vacant (source: Kosovo Judicial Council).

Additional information

Prishtinë/Priština basic prosecutor's office covers the municipality.

4. SECURITY PRESENCE

The Kosovo Police station in Gračanica/Graçanicë municipality has 38 police officers; 26 Kosovo Serbs, 11 Kosovo Albanians, and one (1) Kosovo Bosniak, while four (4) are female.

5. ECONOMY

The economy of the municipality of Gračanica/Graçanicë is mainly based on agriculture and small trade businesses. There are some 500 registered private businesses operating in the municipality. There is no reliable data on the number of people employed in the private sector (source: municipal directorate of budget and finance).

5. PUBLIC SERVICES

A. INFRASTRUCTURE

The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality of Gračanica/Graçanicë is assessed as good. All the main roads connecting major villages with the urban centre are asphalted. The municipality faces serious difficulties with water supply, especially during summer. Power supply has improved recently and power cuts generally became less frequent (source: municipal development plan).

B. HEALTH

Health services in Gračanica/Graçanicë municipality are mainly provided by Serbia-run institutions. There are no public healthcare facilities administered by Gračanica/Graçanicë municipality apart from a medical laboratory. A small health centre in Kishnicë/Kišnica village with three (3) medical staff is administered by Prishtinë/Priština municipality (source: municipal department of health, social and family protection).

C. EDUCATION

Education in Gračanica/Graçanicë municipality is mainly provided by schools following the Serbian curriculum. There are three (3) pre-primary schools with 510 pupils and 34 teachers; eight (8) primary schools with 2,237 students and 204 teachers; and eight (8) secondary schools with 1,549 pupils and 310 teachers. There is one (1) Prishtinë/Priština municipality-run primary school in the Kosovo Albanian inhabited village of Kishnicë/Kišnica which has a satellite school in Sušica/Sushicë village (source: municipal directorate of education).

Gračanica/Graçanicë municipal department of education administers two (2) kindergartens located in Laplje Selo/Llappllasellë and Dobrotin/Dobratin with 48 children (source: municipal directorate of education).

7. RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SITES

Gračanica/Graçanicë is the cultural centre for Kosovo Serbs living in the central part of Kosovo, as well as a home to the Ulpiana archaeological site (an ancient Roman city). Gračanica/Graçanicë hosts a historic 13th century Serbian Orthodox Monastery, which was included on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2006. It has a special protective zone around it. The municipality has 12 Serbian Orthodox churches which are in use (source: municipal development plan).

TO KNOW

In Gračanica/Graçanicë there are:

19

seats in the municipal assembly distributed amongst 4 political entities.

38

police officers in the main police station.

1

branch of Prishtinë/Priština basic court.

548

teachers in three (3) pre-primary, 10 primary and eight (8) secondary schools.