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KOSOVO

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KOSOVO

Country Information Package

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LET4CAP aims to contribute to more *consistent* and *efficient* assistance in law enforcement capacity building to third countries. The Project consists in the design and provision of training interventions drawn on the experience of the partners and fine-tuned after a piloting and consolidation phase.

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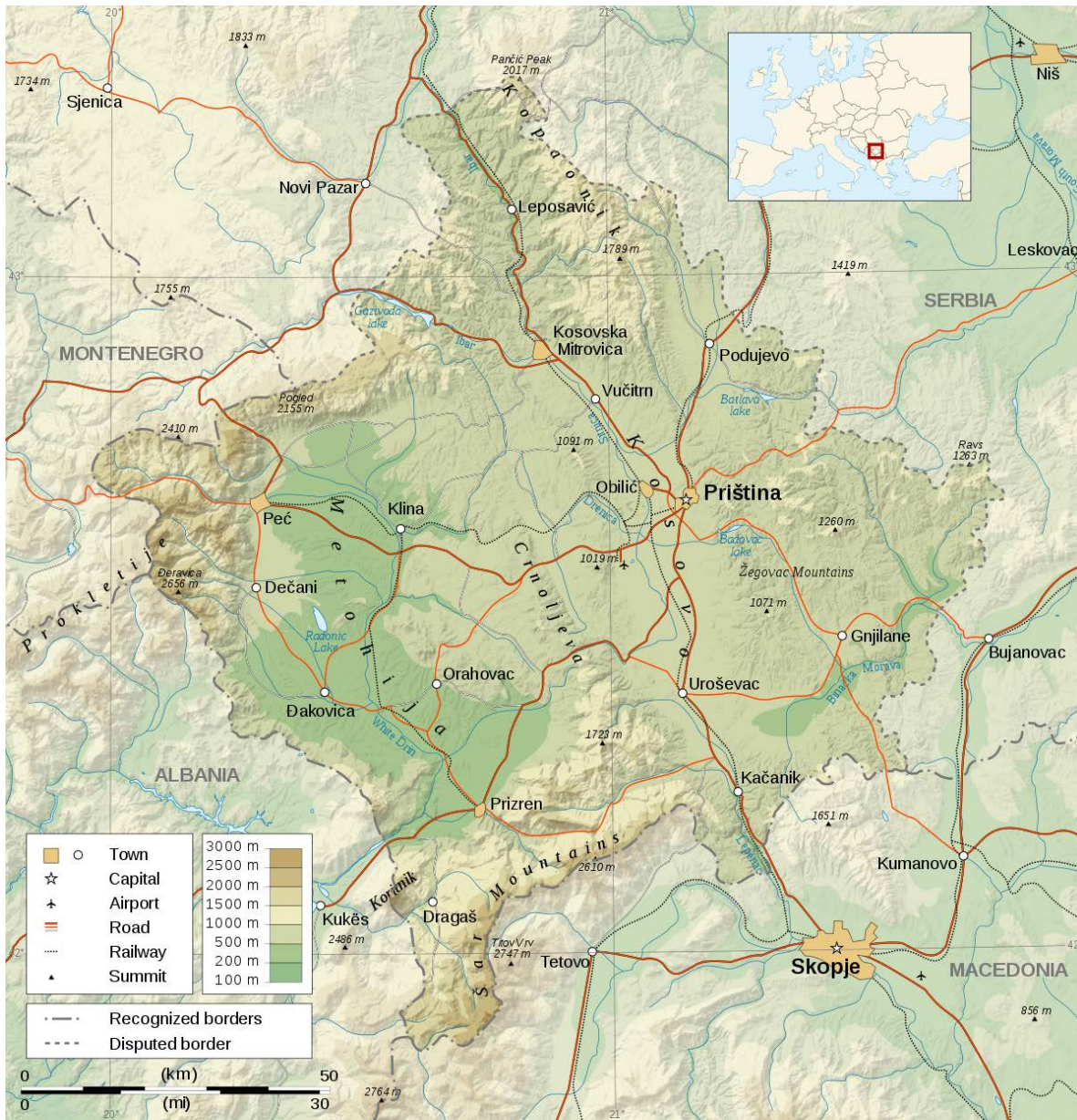
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Bibliography

Annex – UN Security Council Resolution 1244

1. Country Profile

1.1 Country in Brief



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Formal Name: Republic of Kosovo

Previous formal names: Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosovo

Population: 1,895,250

Term for Citizens: Kosovars, (Kosovans)

Area (sq km): 10,887 km²

Capital City: Pristina

Independence: 2008, from Serbia (disputed)

1.2 Modern and Contemporary History of Kosovo

Early History

The area belonging to the current Republic of Kosovo in ancient times was characterized by a very low level of urbanization and was inhabited mostly by warlike tribes. In the IV century B.C. it was conquered by Alexander the Great and in 160 B.C. occupied by the Romans, thus incorporated into the Roman province of Illyricum. Around the year 100 AD the area, which had in the meantime been largely urbanized and Romanized, was incorporated by the Byzantine Empire and included in the province of Dardania. After the disintegration of the Byzantine Empire, the region was subject to the incursions of the Slavic populations who migrated to Europe, who mingled with the local populations throughout all the Middle Ages.

With regard to the Early Middle Ages, there is little news and so much confusion. In the year 850 AD, the Kosovo area was included into the Bulgarian empire, which began the process of Christianization and consolidation of the Slavic-Byzantine cultural identity. From the year 900 to the end of the XII century, Kosovo was continuously contended between Serb-Bulgarians on one side and the Byzantine Empire on the other. Towards the end of the 12th century, the Serbs, a population gathered around Prince Stefan Nemanja, took control of the region. At the time of the conquest of Serbia by the Byzantine Empire (occurred in 1018 AD) the region was already inhabited by ethnic groups to which the historians referred as "Serbs" and "Albanians", divided into very small potentates (upan). After the fall, these groups were forced to Christianization and became tributaries of the Eastern Roman Empire, even if they never stopped rising against the empire. The successor of Nemanja, Stefan Prvovenčani, in 1216 conquered the rest of Kosovo. The region was then merged with other lands belonging to the area of present-day Serbia and Montenegro, in order to create an actual kingdom. The ethnic composition of this state during the Middle Ages is subject to controversy. In fact, it is uncertain if the majority of the population were Serbians or Albanians. More likely, the Albanian component was dominant, even though there were not yet profound ethno-cultural differences.

During the XIII and XIV centuries, Kosovo became the political and religious center of the Serbian Kingdom. In the same period hundreds of churches and monasteries were built, while the sovereigns of the Nemanjic dynasty moved their residence continuously between Pristina, Prizren and Skopje. Throughout the Middle Ages, the city of Pristina, the current capital of the Republic of Kosovo after the 2008 declaration of independence, was a commercial center of primary importance, being a hub for trade flows directed to the Adriatic Sea. During the Middle Ages, some Saxon communities also settled in Kosovo, coming to explore the region in search of mineral resources.

In 1346 the power of the Serbs reached its maximum expansion and the Serbian Empire was founded. Stefan Dušan was thus crowned Tsar of the Serbs, Vlachi, Greeks and Albanians. However, following his death in 1355, roughly around 1371, the Serbian empire fell and fragmented into a series of small feudal principalities. Specifically, Kosovo became a hereditary land for the Mrnjavčević and Branković families.

In the late 14th and 15th centuries, the Ottoman Empire, exploiting the military weakness of the Greeks and the Serbs, began to expand until it reached the territories of Kosovo. Some parts of Kosovo, then fragmented into some tiny feuds, became part of the League of Lezhë, a federation deployed against the Ottoman empire, that gathered all the Albanian principalities.

The first great clash between Slavic-Christians and the Ottoman Empire was the so-called Battle of Kosovo, which took place in the present-days city of Kosovo Polje, on June 15 1389. In this occasion the Serbian prince Lazar Hrebeljanovic gathered a coalition of Christian soldiers, composed by Serbs, Bosnians, Magyars and a handful of Saxon mercenaries, united against the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire Murad I. During the battle, which saw the defeat of the Serbian kingdoms, both Lazar and Murad I lost their lives. Consequently, almost all the Serbian principalities agreed to become vassals of the Ottoman Sultan. Throughout the early part of the 1400s, the whole area remained under Ottoman control.

In 1445, the Albanian leader George Castriot Scanderbeg fought the Sultan Murad II in the battle of Prizren and succeeded in freeing the Albanian and Kosovar territories from the Ottoman Empire. In light of the heavy defeat inflicted to the Ottoman Empire, Murad II negotiated a peace with the Serbian kingdoms and returned the territories to the Branković family. Kosovo, subsequently, along with Albania, maintained its independence until the death of Scanderbeg, in 1468. Later the region was conquered again by the Turks. While the former territories taken by Scanderbeg (more or less correspondents to the modern Albania and Kosovo) were fighting with Hungarians and Poles against the Sultan, Branković's Serbia, by virtue of its previous peace arrangements with the Sultan, remained alongside the Ottomans.

As a result of a series of further defeats inflicted to the Christian kingdoms, the Sultanate extended its effective rule over most of the Balkans. For five hundred years much of the region has been ruled by the Ottoman Turks, taking the name of Rumelia. During this period the area was divided into administrative districts called Sandžak. Although the Turks allowed freedom of religion and Christians continued to live and prosper, more and more people began to convert to Islam in order to avoid being subject to the heavy taxation addressed to non-Muslims. This triggered the process of Islamization of the Albanians. Toward the XVII century there was a sharp increase in the Muslim Albanian population in the western plain of Metohija, Kosovo. This was the consequence of a series of migrations coming from the South-West territories (modern Albania).

Kosovo in modern history

In 1689, Kosovo was seriously involved in the Great Turkish War (1683-1699). In autumn 1689, in fact, a group of Austrian soldiers, led by Ludwig I of Baden, successfully managed to penetrate the Turkish lines and reach the Kosovo plains, having previously freed the city of Belgrade. Many Serbs thus joined the Austrian army, led by the Albanian Catholic bishop Pjetër Bogdani. On the contrary, many Albanians fought alongside the

Ottoman Empire against the advance of the Austrians. Following a series of defeats, the Austrians withdrew over the Danube to Austria, completely leaving the Balkan territories. The Ottoman offensive in the area, which led to reprisals and raids, caused a large migration of hundreds of thousands of Serbs that sought shelter in Austria. This void was later filled by an inflow of Albanian immigrants.

During the Napoleonic era, the Ottoman Empire entered a phase of deep internal crisis. Serbia, also supported by the Russian Empire, obtained its autonomy from the Ottoman Empire with two revolutions: in 1804 (led by Đorđe Petrović) and 1815 (led by Miloš Obrenović). Then was finally structured in the semi-independent Principality of Serbia (1815). In 1871 many Serbs gathered in Prizren hoping for the restoration of the "old Serbia" by the Principality of Serbia. The Serbian-Turkish Wars of 1876-1877 and the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878 led to the full independence of Serbia, which, at the Berlin Congress, also obtained control over the cities of Priština and Kosovska Mitrovica. The Principality (kneževina or knjaževina) of Serbia obtained international recognition of its independence in 1878, granted by the Ottomans with the Peace of St. Stephen during the Congress of Berlin. Then, in 1882, became Kingdom of Serbia. Following these wars, many Albanian refugees from the territories conquered by Serbia were moved to Kosovo.

Fearing that the Berlin Congress would lead to a fragmentation of the territories inhabited by the Albanians between Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria, the League of Prizren was founded. The purpose of the League was to resist Ottoman rule and especially the incursions from the newly established Balkan nations. Under the pressures coming from the European powers, since 1881 the Ottoman Empire opposed the League, which was then defeated in 1884.

At the start of the 20th century, the Albanians supported the Young Turks movement within the Ottoman Empire, hoping for greater autonomy and the possibility to use the Albanian language in their administration and education system. In the early 1900s numerous popular and peasant revolts occurred in the areas of Kosovo with Albanian majority. In June 1911 the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire visited Kosovo to seek peace with the inhabitants of the region. A further Albanian rebellion in 1912 was the pretext for the start of the first Balkan war against the Ottoman Empire. At its end, with the 1913 Treaty of London, three Kosovar districts (Zvečan, Kosovo and Southern Metohija) were incorporated into the Kingdom of Serbia, while the region of Metohija (Dukagjini) was annexed to Montenegro. Another consequence of the first Balkan war was the independence of Albania, declared - hostility going on - November 28, 1912. The winners of the war were also reluctant to recognize the Albanian independence, thus a part of the territories populated by ethnic Albanians, including Kosovo, was excluded from the new state.

First and Second World War

In August 1914 the First World War broke out. Involved in the conflict, the Serbian army was defeated and tried to retreat to the Adriatic Sea through Kosovo. In 1915, Kosovo was occupied by the Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian troops, with the support of the Albanian population. In 1918 the Serbs conquered Kosovo,

revengeing themselves with atrocities on the Albanian population that had opposed them. After the defeat of the central empires, in 1918, Serbia and Montenegro merged to give life to the new Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, which later became the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. In 1919 Kosovo and Metohija were united in a single province that came under the rule of the Serbs. In 1929 the Kingdom of Yugoslavia was organized in 9 administrative regions, called "Banovine", and Kosovo was divided between three of these territorial entities.

In the period before the Second World War, the Government of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia implemented a program for the re-colonization of Kosovo, aimed to reduce the ethnic Albanian component. During the period, over 60,000 Serbian settlers settled in Kosovo and as many Albanians were forced to emigrate. The Yugoslav monarchy also signed an agreement with Turkey during the 1930s to accept the expelled Albanians belonging to the Muslim religion. This ethnic cleansing continued until the Second World War, when ethnic Albanians became less than 50% of the population of Kosovo.

During the war, in 1941, German and Italian forces conquered Yugoslavia and divided Kosovo. The north, rich in mineral resources, became German, while the province of Pristina became part of the Italian Kingdom of Albania. During the conflict, the Albanians of southern Kosovo under Italian rule carried out Serbs' exterminations, in order to carry out the process of unification of the province to Albania. The Serbian authorities recorded about 70,000 refugees from Kosovo as a result of this cleansing.

In 1943, following the fall of fascism in Italy, all of Kosovo passed into German hands. The Nazis perpetrated reprisals against the partisans and roundups of Jews. In 1944, Kosovo was liberated by the Albanian communists with the help of the Yugoslavs. After the war the province was reintegrated into the newly-established Yugoslav Republic.

From the Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia to the Milošević era

After the war the Albanians living in Kosovo were treated severely, considered collaborators of the Nazi-fascists and enemies of the new Socialist Republic. The Belgrade government committed itself to enhancing Kosovo and promoting economic development, but compared to the other six constituent republics it remained economically backward. During post-war period, Kosovo kept the constitutional status of autonomous province, which, although not equivalent to the other six constituent republics that had the right of secession, still enjoyed great autonomy. When, under Tito, the Belgrade government gave up the colonization program of the area, the Albanian population of Kosovo increased dramatically, going from 70% to over 90% of the total, countering a sharp drop in number of the Serbs. During the 80s, after the death of Tito, especially in Pristina, numerous protests occurred to demand greater economic development and greater autonomy for Kosovo. In parallel, the same decade saw a robust growth of Serbian nationalist movements. Many revisionist volumes were published (among them the *Knjiga o Kosovu*, published in 1985 by Professor Bogdanović), which denounced the suffering inflicted by the Albanians on the Serbian population in Kosovo. On October 24, 1986, within the same climate, a memorandum of the Academy of Sciences (Memorandum SANU), an anti-Tito and deeply anti-Albanian treaty, was published in Belgrade. In 1987 Slobodan

Milošević, then leader of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia in Serbia, was sent to Kosovo in order to try to pacify the population, among which a deep ethnic resentment was spreading. Once in Kosovo, Milošević took over the Serbian minority and became the nationalist leader of the Serbs in Kosovo. In March 1989, the same Milošević, through political pressure and an ever stronger power, succeeded in revoking (by not completely constitutional means) much of Kosovo's autonomy, bringing political power to the Belgrade government. He also managed to remove the status of co-official language to Albanian, until then official language of Kosovo together with the Serbo-Croatian. On May 8, 1989, Milošević became President of the Republic of Serbia. On June 28th of the same year, in a climate of growing Serbian nationalism, on the occasion of the 600th anniversary of the Kosovo's first battle (that of Kosovo Polje), Milošević gave an extremely harsh speech against the Albanians, which have been compared to the Turks of the Ottoman Empire. The speech marked the start of a process of forced re-assimilation of the autonomous province, that involved the closure of the local Albanian schools and the replacement of the whole administrative apparatus with Serbian personnel.

Initially, the Albanian ethnic group reacted to the loss of rights by practicing non-violent resistance, led by Ibrahim Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). The Albanians began to boycott the new Serbian institutions, the political elections and established a series of parallel institutions and schools. On July 2, 1990, the Albanian Kosovars declared the independence of the Republic of Kosovo, which was however recognized only by Albania. In September they adopted a constitution and held a referendum on independence that was won with 98% of the votes. Although the registered turnout was higher than 80%, the vote was not considered internationally valid for the lack of external observers. Meanwhile, the Serbian government was engaged in the Croatian War of Independence (1991-1995). In 1995, following the military operation "Oluja", which ended with the defeat and the retreat of the Serbs from the Dalmatian territories, about 200,000 Serbs from Croatia were expelled from this area. The Belgrade government, despite the international community trying to dissuade it, tried again to implement a re-colonization plan, sending Serbian refugees to Kosovo, in order to change the demographic balance.

Meanwhile, the Albanian population of Kosovo continued to elect their own institutions and organized themselves into political movements aimed to fight for independence. The first symptoms of the Kosovo war began as early as the 1980s, when the Yugoslavian secret services killed the Zeka brothers in Germany, in 1982. The Zeka brothers were, in fact, the early leaders of the movement for the liberation of Kosovo. After taking war actions against Slovenia and Croatia, as well as having carried out a series of dramatic ethnic crimes in Bosnia, Milošević's political action focused on Kosovo, trying to curb all autonomous groups fighting for independence. Throughout the second half of 1980s and early 1990s, the Albanians, under the leadership of Ibrahim Rugova, continued to fight for their cause by non-violent means. The international community has been for years witnessing the continuing violation of human rights and repression perpetrated by Milošević in Kosovo without taking concrete action. Meanwhile,

more and more Albanian refugees were heading towards Central and Southern Europe, especially to Italy.

The Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK), an Albanian paramilitary organization that has been operational since 1991, began in the late 1990s to carry out terrorist attacks on Serbian military posts and governmental buildings. During the institutional chaos erupted in Albania in 1997, a great deal of military material was stolen and taken to Kosovo to strengthen the resources of the UÇK. In the face of the attacks, the Serbian police began a harsh repression that saw reprisals against the population and repeated violations of human rights. In parallel, the Milošević' Government began military operations along the border with Kosovo, helped by several paramilitary groups inspired by the Serbian ultra-nationalism. The UÇK, through a long series of attacks, obtained control of the whole area near Deçan and conquered all the territory around the village of Glodane.

The Kosovo War

On 31 May 1998 the Yugoslav army and police penetrated Kosovo to free the territories from the UÇK. NATO, aiming to warn the Serbs not to over-react, organized an air-show near the borders of Yugoslavia. Throughout June and until mid-July 1998, the UÇK maintained its progress. In the same months, using guerrilla tactics, the UÇK surrounded Peć, Đakovica, and established a provisional capital in the city of Mališevo (north of Orahovac) and then infiltrated Suva Reka and the northwest of Pristina. The harshness of the action and the spectre of possible military retaliation by the Milošević forces convinced the UN to adopt Resolution 1199 in September 1998, which forced the parties involved in Kosovo to cease hostilities, in light of the risk of the outbreak of a real civil war. Following a clear stance by the US government, between October 13 and 15 NATO decided to unilaterally intervene, operating a series of targeted strikes on Serbia to weaken Milošević's positions. On October 15, a cease-fire was reached and the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) started, with which inspectors from some NATO countries and OSCE officials had to be engaged in monitoring that the Belgrade government respected UN resolution 1199. Shortly thereafter, both sides broke the truce and resumed guerrilla operations. On January 15, 1999, the massacre of Račak took place, where 45 Kosovar Albanians were gathered and killed on a hill. This massacre represented a real turning point for the war. The NATO decided to proceed with further military intervention. Meanwhile, on 6 February 1999, the Rambouillet conference (outside Paris) began to look for a point of pacification. On March 18, 1999, the Albanian, American and British delegations signed what became known as the "Rambouillet agreements". The agreements proposed the administration of Kosovo to be entrusted to NATO forces, Kosovo to remain an autonomous province within Yugoslavia, and a force of 30,000 NATO soldiers to maintain order in the region. Since the Serbian assembly refused several points of the proposal, hostilities resumed. On March 23, the NATO coalition undertook a bombing campaign on Serbia that lasted until 11 June 1999. The operations can be divided into three phases: a first phase was aimed at removing from Serbia any capacity for offensive and air defense, through the systematic strikes on military airports, anti-aircraft missile stations and radars. In the second phase the attacks spread to generic military targets, with particular attention to Serbian

forces present in Kosovo. The third phase had as its primary objective to hit civil and military targets in an attempt to paralyze the whole Serbian country. While PM Tony Blair and US President Clinton were the biggest supporters of military action, Russian and Finnish diplomats tried to persuade Milošević to take a step back. Since he understood that Russia would not take the field to defend Yugoslavia, despite its strong anti-NATO rhetoric, Milošević decided to accept mediation and to guarantee the entry of UN-NATO peacekeepers in Kosovo. On June 3, the Serbian President accepted the international peace plan. This put an end to the bombings. On June 10, 1999, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution no. 1244, in which, in addition to delineating the clauses for the end of the conflict and binding the Serbs to precise obligations, it established the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). With UNMIK, whose mandate was to ensure the conditions of peace and a normal life for the inhabitants of the region, the UN effectively placed Kosovo under an international administration, aimed at building democratic institutions for Kosovo and defending its territorial integrity. As stated by Resolution 1244, on June 12, the NATO-led peacekeeping forces (KFOR) entered Kosovo, where they still remain present with the task of maintaining the order and security of the region.

To date, a large number of refugees from Kosovo still live in camps and temporary shelters in Serbia. In 2002, Serbia and Montenegro reported hosting 277,000 internally displaced persons (the overwhelming majority were Kosovar Serbs and Roma), including 201,641 people displaced from Kosovo in Serbia, 29,451 displaced from Kosovo in Montenegro and about 46,000 displaced within Kosovo itself, including 16,000 returning refugees who are unable to live in their original homes.

Milošević was arrested on 1 April 2001 on behalf of the International Court of the Hague, after many hesitations of the new democratic regime, accused of crimes against humanity. The trial was interrupted a short distance from its conclusion, due to the death of the defendant on 11 March 2006, for alleged cardiac arrest (although many speak of an alleged poisoning).

Post-Kosovo War and independence

International talks began in Vienna in 2006 to determine the final status of Kosovo, as foreseen by UN Security Council Resolution 1244 which ended the conflict in 1999. While Serbian sovereignty over Kosovo was recognized by the international community, a clear majority of the population of the province has continued to claim independence. Consequently to the UN Resolution 1244, a UN-led mission was launched in Kosovo (UNMIK), firstly aimed at providing Kosovo with a temporary administration. The operation is very complicated at international level, including, among the actors, not only the United Nations, but also the OSCE, NATO and the European Union. In particular, the entire mission has been divided into four pillars assigned to each organization: the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is responsible for repatriating all the displaced, the local administration is directly entrusted to the United Nations, the establishment of the institutions to the OSCE and the economic reconstruction of the European Union.

The talks supported by the UN, led by UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari, began in February 2006. Despite the progress made

about technicalities, both sides remained diametrically opposed on the issue of status. Russia, which enjoys power of veto at the UN Security Council as one of the five permanent members, has stated that it will not support any resolution that is not acceptable to both Belgrade and Pristina. The 2007 elections, boycotted by the Serbian minority, led to a great-coalition government led by former UÇK leader Hashim Thaci who, after the end of the negotiations in December 2007, began preparing the unilateral transition to independence. In 2008, the European Union launched the EULEX mission, a deployment of European police and civilian resources aimed at helping the local authorities to build a rule of law. Special attention will be given to issues related to the independence of the judiciary system and the war on crime.

On 17 February 2008, the Parliament of Pristina formally declared the independence, obtaining mixed international reactions. The Serb minority protested by boycotting the decision and refusing to recognize the new state entity. In the north of the country some violent clashes occurred. To date, despite the presence of the KFOR mission, the tensions between the Kosovar government, direct expression of the old UÇK, and the Serbian minority, remain high. The Serbian government has hastened to declare this allegation illegal and that it will never recognize the former province as independent. Kosovo was then recognized by most of the western countries and members of the European Union, except five of them (Spain, Slovakia, Romania, Greece, and Cyprus). In 2015, the Republic of Kosovo is recognized by about half of the UN member states; within the Security Council, only Russia and China still oppose it. In terms of international law, therefore, Resolution 1244 of 1999 remains in force.

A new Kosovo Constitution was approved on 9 April and entered into force on 15 June 2008, countersigned by EULEX. With the Constitution some executive powers held by international peacekeeping forces passed to the Kosovar government. On July 22 2010, in an opinion, the International Court of Justice stated that Kosovo's declaration of independence does not in itself violate international law or UN resolution 1244. A resolution prepared by Serbia and the European Union, that paved the way for the negotiations between Belgrade and Pristina, was approved by the United Nations on 9 September 2010. On 19 April 2013 an agreement was signed for the normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina, also promoted by the European Union. With this agreement, Belgrade recognizes the extension of Pristina's authority also over northern Kosovo and dismantles its parallel institutions, in exchange for a non-territorial autonomy for Serbian majority municipalities. The first post-independence local elections took place in 2009. In November 2010 the Assembly of Kosovo overwhelmingly passed a motion of no confidence in the country's minority government, led by Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (Partia Demokratike e Kosovës; PDK), prompting the dissolution of the body and the scheduling of elections. The fall of the government followed the September resignation of Pres. Fatmir Sejdiu, who in October withdrew his Democratic League of Kosovo (Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës; LDK) from the coalition that had governed Kosovo since independence. The elections, held in December 2010, returned the PDK to power, and Thaçi remained prime minister. Although there were reports of widespread voting irregularities, a revote in January 2011 affirmed the earlier results.

Unrest continued in northern Kosovo throughout 2011, as ethnic Serbs, with the support of Serbia, created parallel institutions in defiance of the Kosovar government in Pristina. EU police and some 6,000 NATO troops maintained an uneasy peace in the region, and tensions sometimes erupted into violence. Nevertheless, negotiations between Kosovo and Serbia continued throughout the year in an effort to normalize relations between them. Although the unemployment rate in Kosovo approached 50 percent and organized crime and corruption remained endemic problems, the European Commission determined in late 2012 that the country had made sufficient progress to begin negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement—a critical step toward accession to the EU. On January 2013 EU-mediated talks resume between Kosovo and Serbia days after parliament in Belgrade approves support for minority Serb rights within Kosovo - de facto recognition of Kosovar sovereign territorial integrity. In parallel, major episodes of ethnic violence occurred between 2011-2013 in the northern part of Kosovo, near Mitrovica. Clashes began on 25 July 2011 when the Kosovo Police crossed into the Serb-controlled municipalities of North Kosovo, in an attempt to control several administrative border crossings without the consultation of either Serbia or KFOR/EULEX. Though tensions between the two sides eased somewhat after the intervention of NATO's KFOR forces, they continued to remain high amid concern from the EU, who also blamed Kosovo for the unilateral provocation. In April 2013 Kosovo and Serbia reached a milestone agreement that granted a degree of autonomy to ethnic Serbs in northern Kosovo in exchange for de facto recognition of Kosovo's authority in the region. Serbian negotiators stopped short of recognizing Kosovo's independence, however.

Political gridlock following a general election in June 2014 hampered the EU reform agenda, and six months passed before a new government could be formed. A compromise between the LDK and PDK was reached in December, whereby LDK leader Isa Mustafa was made prime minister. Thaçi was named deputy prime minister and foreign minister, with both parties agreeing that he would become president in 2016, upon the conclusion of Atifete Jahjaga's term in that office.

In August 2015 Kosovo and Serbia made great strides in normalizing their relations. The two countries concluded negotiations that addressed energy and telecommunications issues, with Kosovo gaining its own international telephone prefix, and Serb communities within Kosovo being granted a measure of

autonomy. Backlash against the EU-brokered deal was intense, and in October opposition lawmakers set off tear-gas canisters on the floor of parliament in protest. Later that month Kosovo concluded a long-desired Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU. Although EU officials stated that additional political and economic reforms would be necessary before full accession could be considered, some \$700 million in developmental aid was made available to Kosovo to achieve those goals.

In the summer of 2018, tensions between Pristina and Belgrade arose in light of two political events. In July of the same year, Prime Minister Thaci and Serbian President Vučić, discussed the hypothesis of a possible redefinition of the territorial borders. In particular, the Serbian proposal would be to cede to Kosovo the territory around the southern city of Presevo, majority Albanian. In exchange, Belgrade calls for the acquisition of the northern territory of Kosovo almost inhabited by Serbs. The talks did not result in any agreement, despite both the High Representative for Foreign Affairs of the European Union Federica Mogherini, and the American national security adviser John Bolton, did not veto. Kosovo's PM Haradinaj, as well as the vast majority of Pristina's parliament, fiercely opposed any attempt in this direction. Bosnia also expressed a deep concern, believing that an eventual redefinition might lead to the outbreak of violence, as well as represent a hazardous precedent. In September 9, 2018, Serbian President Vučić attended a political rally in Mitrovica. During his speech Vučić repeatedly praised former Serbian leader Slobodan Milošević, giving rise to protest in Pristina. Serbia, offering part of its territory to Kosovo, wants to secure access to the European Union in 2025. Prerequisite for membership, far from being achieved, is the normalization of relations with Pristina and the recognition of Kosovo as a state entity.

In addition, on September 13, 2018 the parliament of Pristina approved a preliminary law for the progressive transformation of the Kosovo Security Forces (KSF) into a real national army. This decision was considered a threat to regional security from Belgrade, which said it was ready to intervene to protect the interests and integrity of the Serbian citizens present in the Kosovar territory. This measure represents a huge concern for Serbia, if it is also matched with the fact that the United States representative to the United Nations Nikki Haley asked, on October 2018, United Nations to end the UNMIK mission in Kosovo in the short term, stating that its work was done.

1.3 Geography

Location: Kosovo is a landlocked country located in Southeastern Europe, at the center of the Balkan Peninsula. The country is encircled by Albania to the South and South-West, the Republic of Macedonia to the South-East, Montenegro to the West and Serbia to the North, North-East and East.

Area: Kosovo's total area is approximately 10,887 square kilometres of landmass.

Land Boundaries: Kosovo is bordered by Albania (112 km), Republic of Macedonia (160 km), Montenegro (76 km) and Serbia (366 km). The total length of its borders is 714 km.

Topography: Kosovo has two main plains. The Dukagjini basin is a semi-karst field that lies in the South-Western part of Kosovo, covering around 35% (3,891 km²) of country's total area. It is surrounded by high mountain ranges (Bjeshket e Nemuna, also called Albanian Alps) in the Western part, Pashtrik in the South-West, the Sharr Mountains in the South and South-East. In the Eastern part it borders the hilly region of Drenica which divides it from Kosovo plain. The main river of the region is the White Drin.

Natural Resources: Kosovo is mainly rich in lignite and mineral resources such as: aluminium, gold, zinc, lead, silver, copper, bauxite and chromium but also productive agricultural land, forests, rivers and soil; it is among the richest countries regarding natural resources in Europe, based on surface. Kosovo is especially rich in coal, being aligned among European countries as the third with the largest coal reserves.

Land Use: Most of Kosovo's territory consists of arable land (27.4%); permanent pasture occupies 23.5% and permanent crops around 1.5% of the land.

Environmental Factors: Air pollution is a critical environmental problem in urban areas, particularly in Pristina, the Obiliq area, the Drenas area, and Mitrovica. Kosovo has also few water resources, in four main water basins: the Drini i Bardhe, Ibri, Lepeneci, and Morava e Binçës. Water is distributed unequally across the country and overall demand is expected to rise due to greater urban, industrial, and agricultural demand.

1.4 Territorial and Administrative Units

Kosovo is a unitary parliamentary republic, under UNMIK international protectorate. The country is administratively subdivided into districts (Albanian: rajone, Serbian: okruzi). They are further subdivided into municipalities (Albanian: komuna,

Serbian: opština). These entities were created by UNMIK and based on the previous entities of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

List of Districts of Kosovo:

- District of Ferizaj
- District of Gjakova
- District of Gjilan
- District of Mitrovica
- District of Peja/Pec
- District of Pristina
- District of Prizren



Source: Wikimedia Commons

List of Municipalities of Kosovo

District of Ferizaj

- Ferizaj
- Hani i Elezit
- Kaçanik
- Štimlje/Shtime
- Štrpce/Shtërpçë

District of Gjakova

- Deçan
- Gjakova
- Junik
- Rahovec

District of Gjilan

- Gjilan
- Kamenica
- Klokot

- Partesh
- Ranilug
- Vitina

District of Mitrovica

- Leposavić
- Mitrovica
- North Mitrovica
- Skenderaj
- Vushtrri
- Zubin Potok
- Zvečan

District of Peja/Pec

- Pejë/Peć
- Istok
- Klina

District of Pristina

- Glogovac/Drenas
- Gračanica
- Kosovo Polje/Fushë Kosovë
- Lipljan
- Novo Brdo
- Obilic
- Podujevo
- Pristina

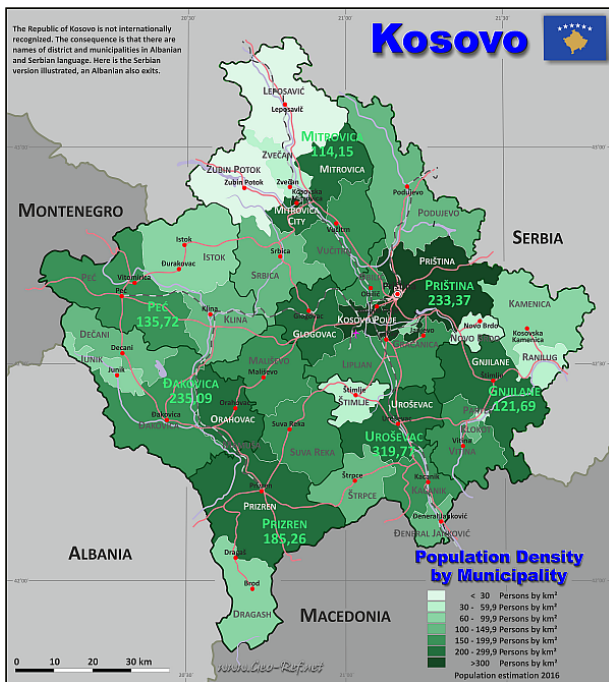
District of Prizren

- Dragas
- Malisheva
- Mamusha
- Prizren
- Suva Reka/Suharekë

1.5 Population

According to the 2017 census, the population of Kosovo is estimated to be 1,895,250. Kosovo has a population density of 159 people per square kilometer, unequally distributed and mostly concentrated in the biggest municipalities, as Pristina, Gnjilane, Glogovac, Orahovac, Prizren and Pec. The less densely populated municipalities are those of Leposavic, Zubin Potok and Stimlje. The age structure displays these percentage: 0-14 years: 25.01%, 15-24 years: 17.22%, 25-54 years: 42.57, 55-64 years: 7.92%, 65 years and over: 7.28% (2017 est.) Male life expectancy at birth is 67 years, while female life expectancy at birth is 71 years. During 2018 Kosovo population is projected to

increase by 1,085 people and reach 1,809,280 in the beginning of 2019. If external migration will remain on the previous year level, the population will be declined by 3,255 due to the migration reasons. The natural increase is expected to be positive, as the number of births will exceed the number of deaths by 4,340. The birth rate for the Republic of Kosovo is 17.10/1000 people. The death rate is instead around 7/1000 people. Infant mortality rate is the highest in Europe. The infant mortality rate is estimated at between 35 to 49 per 1,000 live births, while under 5 mortality rate is estimated at 69 per 1000.



Source: Geo-Ref.net



Source: GRID – Arendal

1.6 Ethnic Groups, Languages, Religion

Ethnic Groups

The ethnic composition of Kosovo is a complex issue, since migration and colonization policies have been the basis of all the conflicts that have marked its history. During the Kosovo War in 1999, over 700,000 ethnic Albanians, around 100,000 ethnic Serbs and more than 40,000 Bosniaks were forced out of Kosovo to neighbouring Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Serbia. After the United Nations took over administration of Kosovo following the war, the vast majority of the Albanian refugees returned. The largest diaspora communities of Kosovo Albanians are in Germany and Switzerland accounting for some 200,000 individuals each, or for 20% of the population resident in Kosovo. A census made in 2011 found an ethnic composition of the population as follows: Albanians 93%, Serbs 1.5%, Bosniaks 1.6%, Gorani 0.6%, Romani 0.5%, Ashkali 0.9%, Egyptians 0.6%, Turks 1.1%. However, a fact has to be taken into account: these estimates may under-represent Serb, Romani, and some other ethnic minorities because they are based on the 2011 Kosovo national census, which excluded northern Kosovo (a largely Serb-inhabited region) and was partially boycotted by Serb and Romani communities in southern Kosovo. The most striking evidence in the demographics of Kosovo is the dramatic decrease in the number of Serbs across all the second part of XX century. They passed from 23.5% in 1961, to 18.4% in 1971, to 13.2% in 1981, to 9.9 in 1991 and, finally, to 1.5% in 2011. If, during the early 1990s the number of Serbs remained constant thanks to the Milošević's colonization policies, the big drop obviously took place after the end of the Kosovo war in 1999. The whole country today still presents an overwhelming Albanian majority. The Serbian minority lives mainly concentrated in the municipalities of Leposavic (96.3%), Zubin Potok (93.9%) and Nord-Mitrovica (76.5%) on the border with Serbia. Other Serbian enclaves are the municipalities of: Gracanica (67.7%), Novo Brdo (46.4%), Ranilug (95.5%), Partes (99.9%), Klokot (46%) and Strpce (45.3%). A large ethnic community of Gorani, Muslims from Gora region, is located in the Southern municipality of Dragaš, where they make up about 26% of the population. The town and municipality of Mamuša, in the Prizren district (South-West of

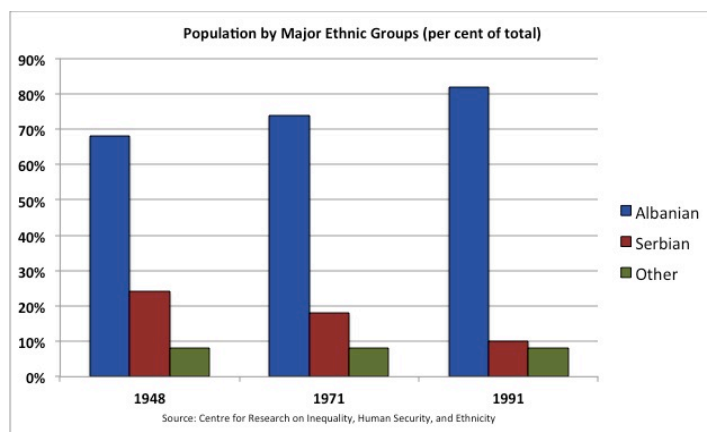
Kosovo), is the only primarily composed of ethnic Turks. This is a group already present in the town since ancient times and constantly growing. The Turks have in fact passed from 76% in 1961 to the current 93% of Mamuša.

Languages

The official languages of Kosovo today are Albanian and Serbian. The Albanian, an Indo-European language probably derived from the ancient Illyrian group, is spoken by 94.5% of the population. The Serbian instead, which uses the Cyrillic alphabet, is a Slavic idiom that constitutes one of the four standardized varieties of the Serbo-Croatian language. It is spoken by the Serbian minority of the country, around by 1.6% of the population. The other languages spoken by ethnic minorities are: the Bosnian, especially in the southern and western municipalities (1.7%) and the Turkish 1.1%. In municipalities where a community's mother tongue is not one of Kosovo's official languages, the language of that community may be given official status according to the 2006 Law on the Use of Languages.

Religion

The main religion spread in Kosovo is the Islamic Sunni ritual, embraced by almost all Albanians, from Bosniaks, Goranis, Turks and some Roma communities. The Serbian population, estimated at between 100 and 120 000 people, is almost Serbian Orthodox totality. There are Catholic communities in Prizren, Klina, Gjakova (Albanesi), Lipjani and Viti (Croats). Protestants constitute less than 1% of the population but are present, in small communities, mainly in Pristina. Despite about 90% of the population being Muslim, in Kosovo as in other Islamic countries of Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Turkey), religion does not directly interfere in political life. Kosovo is also considered as one of the fundamental places in the history of Serbia and Serbian Orthodox religion. The countless monasteries, many of them protected by UNESCO and the sacred places, spread throughout the Kosovar territory testify to this. Since 1808, Kosovo is under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Eparchy of Ras and Prizren.



Source: NYU University

1.7 Health

Although lots of progress has been made in recent years, the health care system in Kosovo is not yet been fully developed. So far, the quality of data in Kosovo sometimes should be treated carefully. For this text, mainly data from Kosovar official institutions has been used (Kosovo Agency of Statistics, Ministry of Health). The following data show the life expectancy at birth for both male and female. On average, a child born in Kosovo is expected to live up to 69 years of age.

Table 1. Life expectance at birth

Life expectancy at birth, total	2011 est. 69.0	years
Life expectancy at birth, male population	2011 est. 67.0	years
Life expectancy at birth, female population	2011 est. 71.0	years

Source: Worldstat info, Kosovo Agency of Statistics

Organization and provision of services

The health system in Kosovo, as elsewhere in Eastern Europe, was mainly based on the Semashko's model of healthcare delivery. The central government functioned as the purchaser as well as the provider of health care services, which is still the present model in Kosovo, with a few minor changes (municipalities through their health departments are responsible for public health care). Public health was made a municipal responsibility, and municipal public-health inspectors were hired. Responsibility for immunization was transferred to primary care facilities. The inheritance of a typical socialist health system and infrastructure, which was largely mistreated in the 1990s and then disrupted and damaged by the 1999 conflict, has notably affected health services in Kosovo. The Kosovo Ministry of Health (MoH) was established in February 2002; together with its National Institute of Public Health, it has the responsibility for policy development, strategic planning, licensing, quality assurance, and budgeting. Its primary role is to monitor, supervise and support both the hospitals and primary health care.

Hospital admission per 100 population: 7.9 (2008)

Outpatient visit per capita per year: 1.9 (2006)

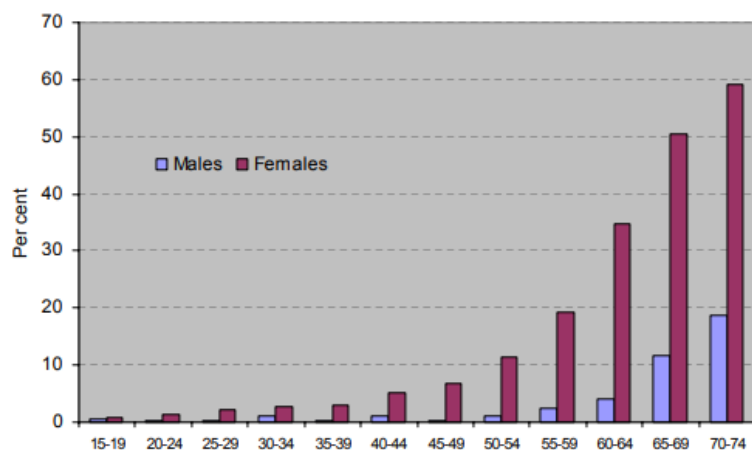
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total health expenditures (€, mil.)	107.80	115.05	121.21	136.15	158.22
<i>Public spending</i>	71.40	71.80	67.43	78.39	89.28
<i>Private Out-of-Pocket</i>	30.80	42.81	52.81	56.64	62.01
Public spending on health					
<i>In % of GDP</i>	2.9	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.3
<i>In % of total GE</i>	9.7	10.0	10.2	8.3	7.6

Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics

1.8 Education and Literacy

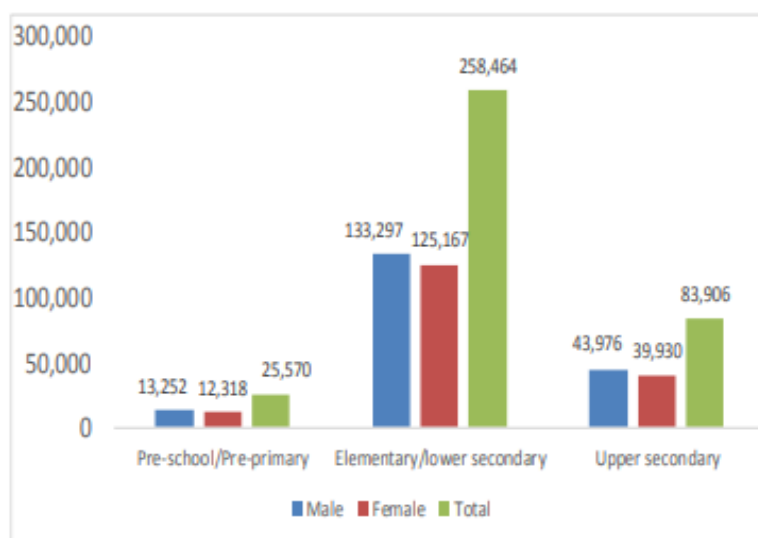
According to the Demographic and Socio-economic survey conducted in 1999 on the average, 2.3 per cent of the men and 10.2 per cent of the women age 15 and above are illiterate in Kosovo. There are great age and gender differences but illiteracy. Illiteracy is higher in rural than urban areas. Almost 14 per cent of the women living in rural areas are defined as illiterate, while the corresponding share of illiterate men is 10 percentage points lower

Figure 10.1: Illiteracy Rate by Age and Gender



Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics

Education constitutes the largest spending sector of Kosovo*'s central budget: it represents 18% of total public spending (4.7% of GDP), and primary education expenditure levels have grown steadily since 2008, from 1.15% of GDP to 1.32% in 2014 reflecting the importance given to it by the Kosovo institutions following the UN-OSCE guidelines and principles.



Graph. 5. Number of pupils by level

Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics

1.9 Country Economy

Kosovo's economy has shown progress in transitioning to a market-based system and maintaining macro-economic stability, but it is still highly dependent on the international community and the diaspora for financial and technical assistance. Remittances from the diaspora - located mainly in Germany, Switzerland, and the Nordic countries - are estimated to account for about 17% of GDP and international donor assistance accounts for approximately 10% of GDP.

Kosovo's citizens are the second poorest in Europe, after Moldova, with a per capita GDP (PPP) of \$10,400 in 2017. An unemployment rate of 33%, and a youth unemployment rate near 60%, in a country where the average age is 26, encourages emigration and fuels a significant informal, unreported economy. Emigration remains challenging, however, because Kosovo lacks visa-free travel to the EU. Most of Kosovo's population lives in rural towns outside of the capital, Pristina.

Inefficient, near-subsistence farming is common - the result of small plots, limited mechanization, and a lack of technical expertise. Kosovo enjoys lower labor costs than the rest of the region. However, high levels of corruption, little contract enforcement, and unreliable electricity supply have discouraged potential investors. The official currency of Kosovo is the euro, but the Serbian dinar is also used illegally in Serb majority communities. Kosovo's tie to the euro has helped keep core inflation low. Minerals and metals production - including lignite, zinc, nickel, chrome, aluminium, magnesium, and a wide variety of construction materials - once the backbone of industry, has declined because of aging equipment and insufficient investment, problems exacerbated by competing and unresolved ownership claims of Kosovo's largest mines.

A limited and unreliable electricity supply is a major impediment to economic development, but Kosovo has received technical assistance to help improve the sector's performance and has worked to improve infrastructure connections with its neighbours. In 2012, Kosovo privatized its electricity supply and distribution network. The US Government is cooperating with the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) and the World Bank to conclude a commercial tender for the construction of Kosovo C, a new lignite-fired power plant that would leverage Kosovo's large lignite reserves. MED also has plans for the rehabilitation of an older coal

power plant, Kosovo B, and the development of a coal mine that could supply both plants.

In June 2009, Kosovo joined the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, and began servicing its share of the former Yugoslavia's debt. In order to help integrate Kosovo into regional economic structures, UNMIK signed (on behalf of Kosovo) its accession to the Central Europe Free Trade Area (CEFTA) in 2006. Kosovo joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2012 and the Council of Europe Development Bank in 2013. In 2016, Kosovo implemented the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) negotiations with the EU, focused on trade liberalization. Under the SAA, Kosovo — which gets approximately 58% of government revenue from tariffs on imports — is required to phase out tariffs on EU goods over the next seven years. In 2014, nearly 60% of customs duty-eligible imports into Kosovo were EU goods. In 2015, Kosovo negotiated a \$185 million Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) with the IMF following the conclusion of its previous SBA in 2014. The IMF requested an extension of the current SBA to August 2017 to facilitate policy continuity and allow sufficient time for on-going structural reforms to progress. In August 2015, as part of its EU-facilitated normalization process with Serbia, Kosovo signed agreements on telecommunications and energy distribution, but disagreements over who owns economic assets, such as the Trepca mining conglomerate, within Kosovo continue.

Kosovo experienced its first federal budget deficit in 2012, when government expenditures climbed sharply. In May 2014, the government introduced a 25% salary increase for public sector employees and an equal increase in certain social benefits. Central revenues could not sustain these increases, and the government was forced to reduce its planned capital investments. The government, led by Prime Minister Mustafa - a trained economist - recently made several changes to its fiscal policy, expanding the list of duty-free imports, decreasing the Value Added Tax (VAT) for basic food items and public utilities, and increasing the VAT for all other goods. While Kosovo's economy continued to make progress, it needs further reform and investment to enable the level of growth required to reduce unemployment and raise living standards in a meaningful way.

Economic data:

GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$19.38 billion (2017 est.) \$18.73 billion (2016 est.) \$18.11 billion (2015 est.) note: data are in 2017 dollars
GDP (official exchange rate)	\$6.684 billion (2016 est.)
GDP - real growth rate	3.5% (2017 est.) 3.4% (2016 est.) 4.1% (2015 est.)
GDP - per capita (PPP)	\$10,400 (2017 est.) \$10,200 (2016 est.) \$9,900 (2015 est.) note: data are in 2016 US dollars
Gross national saving	12.5% of GDP (2017 est.) 12.7% of GDP (2016 est.) 12.5% of GDP (2015 est.)
GDP - composition, by end use	household consumption: 90.5% government consumption: 16% investment in fixed capital: 28.2% investment in inventories: 3% exports of goods and services: 5.8% imports of goods and services: -43.5% (2012 est.)
GDP - composition by sector	agriculture: 12.9% industry: 22.6% services: 64.5% (2009 est.)
Population below poverty line	30% (2013 est.)
Labor force	483,200 note: includes those estimated to be employed in the grey economy (2013 est.)
Labor force - by occupation	agriculture: 5.9% industry: 16.8% services: 77.3% (2013)
Unemployment rate	34.8% (2016 est.) 34.6% (2015 est.)

Source: Index Mundi

2. Political and Security Context

2.1 The Constitution of Kosovo

In 1971 amendments to the Yugoslav constitution granted Serbia's two autonomous provinces, Kosovo and Vojvodina, nearly equal status with the six republics of Yugoslavia. In 1974 a new Yugoslav constitution enshrined the provinces' equal status and gave them the right to issue their own constitutions. However, following the rise to power of Slobodan Milošević (president of Serbia from 1989), the government in Belgrade revoked the provinces' autonomy and retook political control. Kosovo thus was administered by Serbia until the conflict of 1998–1999, after which Serbian and Yugoslav forces withdrew and the UN oversaw the instalment of an interim administration. Under the guidance of the UN mission, Kosovar Albanians established central and municipal government institutions, while the UN worked to resolve Kosovo's future status. Multilateral talks on the subject led to a plan—developed by UN special envoy Martti Ahtisaari and supported by Kosovar Albanians—whereby Kosovo would eventually gain independence. But because Serbia strongly opposed the idea of Kosovar independence, Russia blocked UN approval of the Ahtisaari Plan in 2007. Further talks failed to produce any agreement, and on Feb. 17, 2008, Kosovo unilaterally declared its independence. That April a Kosovar assembly approved a constitution, which took effect on June 15, 2008.

Although the constitution granted local self-government to Kosovo's Serb communities and offered special protection for Serb cultural and religious sites, many Serbs rejected both the declaration of independence and the new government. Numerous

Serbs boycotted subsequent elections, preferring to support the parallel administrative structures organized by Serb groups and backed by Belgrade—structures that the Kosovar government deemed illegal.

According to the 2008 constitution, the executive branch of government is led by a president (head of state) and a prime minister (head of government). The president is elected by the Assembly of Kosovo for a five-year term, with the right to be re-elected to one additional term. The president appoints the prime minister upon a recommendation by the majority party or coalition in the Assembly. The Assembly is a unicameral legislature composed of 120 deputies directly elected by voters for four-year terms. Of the 120 seats in the Assembly, 100 are distributed on the basis of proportional representation, at least 10 are guaranteed for Kosovar Serbs, and 10 are reserved for members of the Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim), Turkish, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, and Gorani communities.

Municipalities are the basic units of local government. Each municipality is administered by a mayor and a municipal assembly, elected every four years by proportional representation. Municipalities have the right to associate with each other and to participate in the selection of local police commanders. Some municipalities with predominantly Serb populations have special rights, such as the operation of a secondary health system, oversight of postsecondary education, and management of cultural and religious sites.

2.2 Elections

Kosovan parliamentary election, 17 November 2007

Parliamentary elections to the unicameral Assembly of Kosovo (Albanian: Kuvendi i Kosovës, Serbian: Скупштина Косова, transliterated Skupština Kosova) were held on 17 November 2007, together with municipal elections. The Assembly of Kosovo is the legislative branch of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government that the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) created to help administration in Kosovo. The elections were scheduled by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Joachim Rucker (head of the UNMIK) on 1 September 2007. Municipal elections in Kosovo were held at the same day as the parliamentary elections. The PDK party, led by Hashim Thaçi, won 37/120 seats compared to 34.3% of the votes. The LDK party instead, led by Fatmir Sejdiu, with 22.6% of the votes, gained 25/120 seats at the Parliamentary Assembly.

Kosovan parliamentary elections, 12 December 2010

A parliamentary election was held in Kosovo on 12 December 2010, following a vote of no-confidence in the government that brought forward the election. Incumbent Hashim Thaçi's Democratic Party of Kosovo (DPK) won a plurality amidst controversies and a partial re-poll, while he was still in the process of trying to form a government. The election was seriously hampered by a number of irregularities and election fraud; and a second poll was held on 9 January 2011 at 21 voting stations in 5 municipalities. The new vote was still positive for Thaçi in 4 out of 5 municipalities. The election was marred by reports of drugs-, weapons- and human organs trafficking by an organization linked to Thaçi, which led to the re-opening of a formal investigation by the EULEX mission. The Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) split before the election. In late October 2010, former Health Minister Bujar Bukoshi and Ukë Rugova (the son of the late president Ibrahim Rugova) announced they would be filing a citizens' list called LDK – Ibrahim Rugova to run in the election. The Alliance for the Future of Kosovo of Ramush Haradinaj also signed an agreement with the LDK – Ibrahim Rugova faction list on 10 November 2010. At a party congress on 7 November, Pristina mayor Isa Mustafa was elected as the new leader of LDK, beating incumbent Fatmir Sejdiu with 235 to 125 votes. New Kosovo Alliance of Behgjet Pacolli signed pre-election agreements with the Justice Party and the Social Democratic Party of Kosovo in early November. The coalition nominated Mimoza Kusari-Lila as its prime ministerial candidate. Incumbent PM Hashim Thaçi claimed victory in the election before the result was certified by the CEC with exit polls showing the Democratic Party of Kosovo won 31 percent and the Democratic League of Kosovo followed with 25 percent, though this was not yet certified by the CEC. The final results show: Hashim Thaçi and his PDK party earn 34 seats (3 seats less than previous elections). Isa Mustafa and LDK party earn 27 seats (2 more than before)

Kosovan parliamentary elections, 8 June 2014

Parliamentary elections were held in Kosovo on 8 June 2014, after incumbent Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi announced his intention


to hold elections. On 7 May, the Assembly was dissolved and President Atifete Jahjaga confirmed the Election date as 8 June 2014. For the first time in Kosovan history a Serbian political list enters parliament, not as an ethnic minority quote, with 9 seats. Foreign media viewed the election results as "inconclusive". Incumbent Prime Minister Hashim Thaci and the PDK were expected to be the first to form government, having won a plurality of the seats in the election. However, an opposition coalition of the LDK, AAK, and NISMA sought to form a governing coalition, arguing that together they could form a majority of the seats in parliament. When parliament resumed in July, the opposition coalition attempted to elect LDK leader Isa Mustafa as Speaker of Parliament, but only after a member of Thaci's party had walked out of the vote. This constitutional crisis dragged on for several months, until the PDK formed a governing coalition with the LDK. Under the agreement, LDK leader Isa Mustafa would become Prime Minister, while Thaci would be Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Parliamentary struggles continued for Kosovo after the government was formed.

Parliamentary elections, 11 June 2017

The elections were triggered by a motion of no confidence in the government of Prime Minister Isa Mustafa on 10 May 2017 by a vote of 78–34. The motion had been proposed by the Initiative for Kosovo over government failures to meet their campaign promises. The constitution requires fresh elections to be held by 18 June 2017. No party obtained enough seats to form government alone. However, PDK coalition leader Ramush Haradinaj stated that he has the necessary votes to form a government, counting on the 39 seats of his coalition, the 20 seats of the ethnic minorities and some members of the LDK coalition.

After several unsuccessful attempts to elect a new Chairman of the Assembly and a new Prime Minister, on 4 August Behgjet Pacolli announced the AKR's withdrawal from the coalition with the LDK and the formation of a government pact with the PAN Coalition. As a result, the AKR was promised several ministries in the new government, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Land Management, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Economic Development. The PAN Coalition announced that two LDK deputies, Uke Rugova and Dardan Gashi, would also join the government. Finally on September 9 the new government was voted, and Ramush Haradinaj was elected new prime minister with 61 votes in favor. This votes include Ramush Haradinaj pre-election coalition PANA Coalition, AKR, the national minorities and the Serbian list. The new government include 21 ministers includes ethnic Albanians, Bosniaks, Turks and Serbs.

Kosovan parliamentary election, 2014


				
← 2010 8 June 2014 2017 →				
Party	Leader	%	Seats	±
PDK	Hashim Thaçi	30.38	37	+3
LDK	Isa Mustafa	25.24	30	+3
VV	Albin Kurti	13.59	16	+2
AAK	Ramush Haradinaj	9.54	11	-1
Srpska	Aleksandar Jablanović	5.22	9	New
NISMA	Fatmir Limaj	5.15	6	New
KDTP	Mahir Yağcılar	1.02	2	-1
KV	Džezair Murati	0.89	2	0
PDS	Nenad Rašić	0.82	1	New
PDAK	Danush Ademi	0.46	1	0
NDS	Emilija Redžepi	0.39	1	0
PLE	Isuf Berisha	0.27	1	New
PAI	Etem Arifi	0.22	1	0
KzG	Adem Hodža	0.16	1	New
KNRP	Jolixhi Shala	0.09	1	New

This lists parties that won seats. See the complete results below.

Prime Minister before Hashim Thaçi PDK	Prime Minister after Isa Mustafa LDK
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Source: Wikipedia

Kosovan parliamentary election, 2017

				
← 2014 11 June 2017 2021 →				
Party	Leader	%	Seats	±
PAN Coalition	Kadri Veseli	33.74	39	-15
VV	Visar Ymeri	27.49	32	+16
LAA Coalition	Isa Mustafa	25.53	29	-1
Srpska	Slavko Simić	6.12	9	0
KDTP	Mahir Yağcılar	1.08	2	0
KV	Džezair Murati	0.89	2	0
NDS	Emilija Redžepi	0.49	1	0
SLS	Slobodan Petrović	0.49	1	+1
PDAK	Danush Ademi	0.33	1	0
PLE	Isuf Berisha	0.33	1	0
JGP	Adem Hodža	0.33	1	New
PAI	Etem Arifi	0.29	1	0
PREBK	Allbert Kinolli	0.13	1	+1

This lists parties that won seats. See the complete results below.

Prime Minister before Isa Mustafa LDK	Prime Minister after Ramush Haradinaj AAK
--	---

2.3 Political Parties



Democratic Party of Kosovo

The Democratic Party of Kosovo (Albanian: Partia Demokratike e Kosovës, PDK) the third-largest political party in Kosovo. It was originally a social democratic party coming out of demilitarized KLA after the war with most of the leadership being Albanian nationalists and former members of PMK, but during its congress in January 2013, it positioned itself as a center-right party. It is the main center-right party in Kosovo. The party shows strong Social conservatism and economic liberal tendencies. It is headed by Kadri Veseli, a leader of the former Kosovo Liberation Army and SHIK. The first post-war Prime Minister of Kosovo, Bajram Rexhepi, belongs to the Democratic Party of Kosovo. In 2017 the PDK joined the PANA coalition (formerly PAN Coalition) a political alliance between three political parties in Kosovo: The Democratic Party of Kosovo, the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo and the Initiative for Kosovo, which stood in the 2017 elections. After the election, the New Kosovo Alliance joined the coalition.



Alliance for the Future of Kosovo

The Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (Albanian: Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës, AAK) is a political party formed on 29 April 2001. Its ideological orientation can be described as conservatism, Albanian-nationalism and Pro-Europeanism. The current president of the party is Ramush Haradinaj. In December 2004 the parliament elected him as Prime Minister of Kosovo and he formed a coalition government with the largest party, the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). He resigned as Prime Minister in March 2005 after learning that he had been indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, for 37 counts of war crimes. He received a full acquittal from the Tribunal on 3 April 2008. He returned to Kosovo and immediately resumed his duties as president of the party. The current Secretary General is Burim Ramadani and the Secretary of Organisation is Ibrahim Selmanaj. At the last legislative elections held on 17 November 2007, the alliance won 9.6% of the popular vote and 10 out of 120 seats in the Assembly of Kosovo, which made it the fifth largest political force. This was a gain on the previous two legislative elections in 2001 and 2004 in which the AAK won 7.8% and 8.4% of the popular vote, respectively. Along with the PDK is part of the PANA coalition of government.



Democratic League of Kosovo

The Democratic League of Kosovo (Albanian: Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës, LDK) is the second-largest political party in Kosovo. It is a conservative and liberal conservative party.

At the legislative elections held on 24 October 2004 the party won 45.4% of the popular vote or 47 out of 120 seats (seven of which have now defected to the Nexhat Daci-led Democratic League of Dardania). One of the founding members, Ibrahim Rugova was president of the party, as well as President of Kosovo, until his death on 21 January 2006. At the last legislative elections held on 17 November 2007, the party won only 22.6% and 25 seats but went on to form a Coalition government with Hashim Thaçi's Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK); in October 2010, the LDK withdrew from the coalition. The Party initially started out as an Albanian nationalist Right-Wing movement which campaigned for Kosovan independence. It was then led by Ibrahim Rugova a moderate leader who separated with the Kosovo Liberation Army faction. After the war the party remained under the conservative leadership of Rugova. The party also adopted several pro-European policies as well as moving farther to the centre of the political spectrum. However, after Rugovas death the party went through a period of turmoil with several factions vying for control over the party. However the more liberal conservative stance of Fatmir Sejdiu took over leading to Nexhat Daci and 6 other Mp's forming the more conservative Democratic League of Dardania.



Alternativa

is a Liberal democracy political party in Kosovo founded in 2017. Ilir Deda was elected MP for Vetëvendosje in the parliamentary election of 2014. However, during the anti-governmental protests in Kosovo in 2015–16, Deda became a loud critic of his party's support for the acts of violence towards government officials and therefore left the party on 2 April 2016. Similarly, Mimoza Kusari-Lila, former Minister of Trade and Industry and Deputy Prime Minister for the New Kosovo Alliance and current Mayor of Gjakova left her party in May 2016 due to the conflicts within the party and ideological differences and decided to join Deda's "new initiative". Officially launched on 8 February 2017 by MP Ilir Deda and Mayor of Gjakova Mimoza Kusari-Lila in Mitrovica and on 13 May 2017. General Council of Alternativa decided that Mimoza Kusari-Lila to be president of the party and Ilir Deda to be deputy president of the party. The party is currently in opposition and is part, together with LDK of the LA coalition.

LËVIZJA VETËVENDOSJE!

Vetëvendosje

Vetëvendosje (self-determination) is an Albanian nationalist political party in Kosovo that opposes foreign involvement in the country's internal affairs, and campaigns for the sovereignty exercised by the people instead, as part of the right to self-determination. The movement widely bases its philosophy on the works of Ukshin Hoti. The big contrast with the mainstream political spectrum within Kosovo concerns two issues that characterize Kosovo after the war: the long process of negotiations with Serbia concerning the internal organization and socio-political aspects of Kosovo, without imposing any prior conditions to the Serbian side, which they consider "unfair and harmful", and the process of privatization of public companies which they describe as "a corruption model, contributing to increasing unemployment, ruining the economy, and halting economic development of the country". It presents the most firm and continuously critical opposition to the government while focusing their programs along three main axes: developmental state, meritocracy, and welfare state. The movement runs the municipal government of Prizren.



New Kosovo Alliance

New Kosovo Alliance (Albanian: Aleanca Kosova e Re, AKR) is a liberal political party in Kosovo which is in the current coalition government made up by the PDK and AKR. The party was founded on 3 May 2006, by Behgjet Pacolli, a businessman. He is the founding owner of Mabetex, the Swiss-based project-engineering firm that has managed significant engineering projects ranging from restorations in the White House in the United States to the rebuilding of the Kremlin in Moscow. Up until 17 November 2007, the AKR had not taken part in any elections as it was a new political organization. The party enjoyed significant support in Kosovo, with the April 2007 survey of BBSS Gallup International/Index suggesting that the AKR was the fourth-largest political party in Kosovo with 8% support amongst those surveyed. The survey showed that the AKR was lagging behind the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) (26%), Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) (17%), and the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (9%). The AKR first ran candidates in the Kosovo elections which were held on 17 November 2007. The party won 12.3% of the vote and 13 seats in the assembly of Kosovo, making it the third-largest party in the nation. It was the largest official opposition party to the coalition government of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) and the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), led by Hashim Thaçi at the time. On 22 February 2011, Behgjet Pacolli was elected as President of Kosovo by the members of Parliament.

Immediately after becoming President, he resigned as the head of the AKR due to the Constitutional requirements that the head of the state cannot hold two different political functions simultaneously once in power. On 4 April 2011, President Pacolli stepped down after his election as President was declared unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court of Kosovo. Most opposition members of parliament had boycotted the presidential vote due to their dissatisfaction with the candidates, and the court ruled this invalidated the election. President Pacolli earned respect for choosing to step down voluntarily and prevent the country from engaging in a political crisis. Many observers and foreign dignitaries, such as the United States ambassador to Kosovo, William Christopher Dell, commended the former President for his action. The coalition government of the PDK and AKR continued, and the former president was appointed on 8 April 2011 as the first deputy prime minister of Kosovo. He was charged with leading a special task force to lobby for the recognition of the independence of Kosovo throughout the world. Behgjet Pacolli was expected to return to leading the AKR by the end of July 2011. Rrahim Pacolli was to return to the post of general secretary of the party. Due to his efforts, in 2007 the party had gained its highest electoral success.



Social Democratic Initiative

The Social Democratic Initiative (Albanian: NISMA Social Demokrate) also known as NISMA, is a political party in Kosovo formed by Fatmir Limaj and Jakup Krasniqi, former members of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK). Limaj is party leader. Secretary Jakup Krasniqi's involvement in the Pronto Affair wiretapping scandal was the culmination of split of PDK. Sami Lushtaku (mayor of Skenderaj and DPK leader) together with Prime Minister of Kosovo Hashim Thaci and Adem Grabovci, had insulted the Chairman of the Assembly of Kosovo Jakup Krasniqi and offended citizens of Mališevo, referring to them as dog walkers. In the Kosovo local elections, 2013 Limaj abandoned PDK to support the Civic Initiative for Malishevo (Albanian: Iniciativa Qytetare për Malishevën) and (winning) mayoral candidate Ragip Begaj, ending 15 years of PDK government. Kosovo Liberation Army leader and PDK co-founder left the party with Jakup Krasniqi Chairman of the Assembly of Kosovo. Jakup Krasniqi was elected secretary of the national council of the party. On the 29th January 2018, the party convention decides to change the name of their party from Initiative for Kosovo (Nisma Për Kosovën, to the Socialdemocratic Initiative (Nisma Socialdemokrate).



Turkish Democratic Party

The Turkish Democratic Party of Kosovo (Turkish: Kosova Demokratik Türk Partisi) is a conservative political party in Kosovo that represents the Turkish minority. It is led by Mahir Yağcılar, the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning in Hashim Thaçi government. It was founded as Turkish Democratic Union (Türk Demokratik Birliği) on 19 July 1990 in Prizren and changed its name to the Turkish Democratic Party of Kosovo on 20 June 2001 under UNMIK. The party's seat is in Prizren and has Mamuşa as a stronghold. At the 2004 legislative elections, the Turkish Democratic Party of Kosovo won 1.2% of the popular vote and 3 out of 120 seats. At the 2007 elections, the party kept its 3 seats in the Assembly of Kosovo, one being from the main list of candidates (Mahir Yağcılar) and two being seats reserved for the Turkish minority (Enis Kervan, Müfere Şinik).



Serb List

Serb List (Serbian: Српска листа, Srpska lista, Albanian: Lista Serbe) is the representative political group of the planned Community of Serb Municipalities, established in 2014. The combined number of votes for the Serb List was 38.169 (5,30%) at the 2014 Kosovo parliamentary election. On September 17, the Serb List announced that they would join the government cabinet only if Vetevendosje was not part of it. Aleksandar Jablanović, the minister for returns and communities in the government of the Republic of Kosovo, was dismissed on February 3, 2015, after the opposition demanded his dismissal after he called the group of ethnic Albanians who attacked Serb IDPs in Djakovica with stones on Christmas Eve "savages". His statement contributed to the 2015 Kosovo protests. The Serb List decided not to attend the next Kosovo assembly session. Following the 2017 Kosovan parliamentary election, the Serb List agreed to form the Government of Kosovo led by Ramush Haradinaj of Alliance for the Future of Kosovo, under main condition that the Community of Serb Municipalities be established.

2.4 Key Political Leaders



Hashim Thaçi

Hashim Thaçi is the current and 4th President of Kosovo. He was the first Prime Minister of Kosovo and the Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister in the new cabinet led by Isa Mustafa, which assumed office on 12 December 2014. Thaçi was also the leader of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK). He rose to prominence as the political leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), a paramilitary organization which was active during the Kosovo War. In the meantime, he also served as head of a provisional government towards the end of and immediately after the war in 1999. He has been identified as the head of a "mafia-like" Albanian group responsible for smuggling weapons, drugs and human organs through eastern Europe, according to a Council of Europe inquiry report on organized crime.



Ramush Haradinaj

Haradinaj has been the Prime Minister of Kosovo since 9 September 2017 and leader of the AAK party. He is a former officer and leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA/UÇK), and previously served as Prime Minister of Kosovo between 2004 and 2005. Following the dissolution of Yugoslavia Haradinaj was the KLA commander for western Kosovo. Following the conflict, Haradinaj went into politics but soon resigned after becoming one of the KLA commanders charged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) with war crimes and crimes against humanity against Serbs, Romani and Albanians between March and September 1998 during the Kosovo War. He was acquitted of all charges on 3 April 2008.



Isa Mustafa

Mustafa is the leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK). Mustafa was Mayor of Pristina from December 2007 to December 2013 and served as Prime Minister of Kosovo between December 2014 and September 2017. On 1 December 2013, he lost re-election to the position of Mayor of Pristina, in what was seen as a major upset, to upcoming politician Shpend Ahmeti. The upset was especially dramatic seeing as it happened in what had been historically known as a Democratic League of Kosovo stronghold. On 8 December 2014, he became the Prime Minister of Kosovo in a coalition with the Democratic Party of Kosovo. On 10 May 2017, Mustafa lost a vote of no-confidence and decided not to stand in the next election. Instead he nominated Avdullah Hoti as the Democratic League candidate for prime minister. Mustafa stayed on as Prime Minister until his successor Ramush Haradinaj was elected by parliament in September 2017 following a parliamentary election.



Behgjet Pacolli

Behgjet Isa Pacolli (born 30 August 1951) is a Kosovo politician who is serving as the First Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo and Minister of Foreign Affairs. Pacolli is a former President of the Republic of Kosovo, and previously served as the First Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo between 2011 and 2014. Pacolli was one of the signatories of 2008 Kosovo declaration of independence. He is the major shareholder of Mabetex Group, a Swiss-based construction and civil-engineering company. Pacolli is also the President of the third biggest political party in Kosovo the New Kosovo Alliance. For

the past four years, he has been involved in Kosovar politics. He is believed to be the world's richest ethnic Albanian. As a young man, Pacolli contacted companies throughout Austria and Germany seeking work and soon after finishing his military service, he joined an Austrian company, for which he worked as a sales representative for ex-Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Poland and Russia. Two years later, he moved to Switzerland and joined a Swiss company he had gotten to know in Moscow.



Fatmir Sejdiu

Sejdiu is the leader of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) and was the first President of the Republic of Kosovo. Sejdiu was an early protester against Yugoslav authoritarian rule and had for many years in his academic office a portrait depicting himself and fellow political party leader. He has always been widely admired for being honest and fair in all his political dealings. Due to persisting conflicts between the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and the security forces of Yugoslavia, the Kosovo War broke out in 1998. Accusations of widespread abuse by government forces towards ethnic Albanians in 1999

ignited the second part of the war in which NATO forces unleashed a bombing campaign against the government. President Sejdiu succeeded Rugova and became the first president of Kosovo when it declared independence from Serbia on 17 February 2008. Sejdiu served in each of the Presidencies of the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) as well as serving on the Presidency of the Assembly of Kosovo and was one of the authors of the Constitutional Framework of Kosovo in 2001.



Atifete Jahjaga

Atifete Jahjaga, was elected Kosovo's first female president by parliament in April 2011, after her predecessor, the Swiss-Kosovan tycoon Behgjet Pacolli, stepped down only two months into his term after the constitutional court ruled his election unlawful. Ms. Jahjaga, a senior police officer, was chosen as an interim compromise candidate between the governing coalition and main opposition party until parliament reaches agreement on direct popular elections for the presidency. The constitutional court had ruled that the February election was invalid as an opposition walkout had rendered parliament short of a quorum.

2.5 Media Landscape and Civil Society

Media Landscape

The media landscape in Kosovo during the last decade has seen exceptional developments going from a few state sponsored media outlets to many, including private outlets and media houses run by NGOs. Such developments in the media sector took place as a result of international financial support and technical assistance, which in recent years has significantly decreased. According to the Independent Media Commission (IMC), as of January 2012 there were 105 electronic media in Kosovo consisting of 84 radio and 21 TV stations. From IMC's registration data, there are radio stations serving all communities in Kosovo with 48 broadcasting in Albanian, 26 in Serbian, one bilingual Albanian/Serbian, three in Bosnian, two in Gorani, two in Turkish and one in Roma. Additionally, out of these radio stations four broadcast nationally, two of which are private (Radio 21 and Radio Dukagjini) and two are state owned (Radio Blue Sky and Radio Kosova), all broadcasting in Albanian. However, most radio stations do not produce information programs. With regard to the Serbian community, an association of radio stations has been formed, known as KOSMA, which produces some information programs covering the whole territory of Kosovo. Although, as the statistics demonstrate, there isn't a genuine multilingual approach, rather it is to ensure funding or complying with legislation. In relation to television, out of the 21 TV broadcasters, 15 broadcast in Albanian, five in Serbian and one in Turkish. Radio Television Kosovo (RTK) is the national state broadcaster, which broadcasts news and some programs in different languages (Albanian, Serbian, Turkish and Roma). It has also launched a number of other channels including one broadcasting in the Serbian language. However, RTK has faced difficulties in ensuring funding and collecting license fees and from time to time faces political pressure. Two further private national TV stations exist (KTV and RTV21), broadcasting in Albanian, although not without difficulties relating to external pressure. Print media in Kosovo is dominated by daily newspapers that are printed in Albanian language only, currently consisting of five dailies, with an estimated circulation of 35,000. There are no newspapers being printed in the Serbian language. A great number of media outlets have emerged online as well. Many of the printed dailies maintain websites to inform, although not all newspaper articles appear simultaneously. The usage of the Internet to inform the public and generate debate is also used by a number of news portals. Currently, there are a number of portals operating in Kosovo with only 12 being members of the Kosovo Press Council. Whilst this provides instant news, they do not always produce content, rather they utilize stories and content from either printed dailies or online newspapers, and at times not respecting copyright legislation. Additionally, such portals through certain titles and allowing for comments by readers to be published without sufficient checks may provide a space for hate speech. Following the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in *Delfi AS v Estonia*¹⁰ and a number of unfavourable decisions from the Kosovo Press Council, some of the online portals withdrew the opportunity to comment entirely. However, the latter does not necessarily reflect the Court's decision, which held that contracting

states may be entitled to impose liability on news portal only in circumstances where there is hate speech and direct threats are made to the physical integrity of individuals, as understood by the Court's case law.

Civil Society

Beginning of civil society actions in Kosovo dates back decades ago. In the modern concept of civil society, the first civil society initiatives and organizations date from the end of the 80s and beginning of 90s, after the fall of communism in Central and Eastern Europe and the beginnings of a new form of political oppression resulting with the establishment of a parallel life in Kosovo. Because of the special situation existing at that time in Kosovo, civil society was developed as an important part of an entirely parallel system and civil resistance against the Serb regime, which was built from the basic needs and dealt with population survival issues. Humanitarian aid and protection of human rights, supplemented by various civil movements, were the most important fields of action of the civil society. The main consolidated organizations at the time were: humanitarian organization Mother Theresa – which numbered over 7,200 volunteers in its ranks. By using a system that was in place throughout Kosovo, it managed to gather aid both locally and abroad and disburse that aid throughout Kosovo; the Council for Defense of Human Rights and Freedoms – monitored, identified and raised awareness on human rights violations, by contributing directly in informing the international community on the systematic oppression of the Albanian population by the Serb regime. Comprised of the most distinguished lawyers from Kosovo, the Council cooperated with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to gather evidence on war crimes in Kosovo. The end of the war and the NATO intervention, as well as the establishment of UNMIK and Provisional Institutions of Self Government in 1999, was the turning point for the overall development of the civil society in Kosovo. The enormous needs for emergency aid and rebuilding as well as interethnic reconciliation pushed the civil society towards transforming its activities and adapting to the new reality. Large financial and technical support from international donors that arose in the form of the need to channel international funds for an after-war Kosovo resulted in a massive increase of the number of CSOs. 'Easily accessible' funds, combined with the dependency on foreign donations, created a large number of donor-oriented NGOs. From over 7,000 NGOs registered by 2013, less than 10% are estimated to still be active or partially active. Although some CSOs are increasing their human and financial capacities, the largest part of the sector remains dependent to international funding.

2.6 Security Sector

Despite the war being over for almost ten years and the presence of international peacekeeping and stability policing forces, Kosovo remains a critical area territory. Kosovo since the 1990s Kosovo War had become a significant center of organized crime, drug trafficking, human trafficking and organ theft besides ongoing ethnic conflict between Kosovar Albanians and Kosovar Serbs. The large Kosovar diaspora which had built up in Western Europe during the 1990s combined with the political instability created ideal conditions for Kosovo to become "Europe's crime hub"; well into the 2000s, Kosovo remained associated with both ethnic conflict and organized crime. A Kosovo Police service has been built up under UN administration beginning in 1999, reaching its operational force of 7,000 officers in 2004, and further expanded to 9,000 by 2010. The deplorable crime rate led to an additional deployment of civilian law enforcement resources of the European Union to Kosovo under the name of European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo in 2008. High unemployment and other economic factors encourage criminal activity in Kosovo. Street crimes consisting of theft and purse snatchings are serious problems in Kosovo, especially in Pristina. Criminals often commit crimes while armed with handguns, as weapons are fairly easy to obtain. Even though stabilization started later, in Kosovo, statistics are able to show that violent and organized crime in Kosovo is in a steady decline. According to Council of Europe Organized Crime Situation Report, 82% of all the organized crime investigations in Kosovo, up until 2005, involved trafficking in human beings. The other major 15% were investigations on extortion. Kosovo is extremely vulnerable to organized crime and thus to money laundering. In 2000, international agencies estimated that the Kosovo drug mafia was supplying up to 40% of the heroin sold in Europe and North America. Due to the 1997 unrest in Albania and the Kosovo War in 1998–1999 ethnic Albanian traffickers enjoyed a competitive advantage, which has been eroding as the region stabilizes. Organ theft in Kosovo (sometimes also known as the "yellow house" case) refers to alleged organ harvesting and killing of an indeterminate number of "disappeared" people. Various sources estimate that the number of victims ranges from a "handful", up to 50, and between 24 and 100. The victims are believed to be mostly ethnic Serbian men from Kosovo, allegedly killed by perpetrators with strong links to elements of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in 1999. By 2011, about 1,900 "disappeared" people (about two-thirds of them ethnic Albanians) still remained missing from the Kosovo conflict. despite the high concentration of criminal activities (trafficking in human beings, arms, drugs and organs), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimated that "Kosovo probably

has the highest concentration of security personnel in the world". In 2008, there were a total of 26,233 security personnel, with 8,834 of them being Kosovo Police Officers. Distinguishing between crimes as such and ethnically motivated crimes is difficult. Because of that, there are no reliable figures concerning inter-ethnic crime. Another major problem in exploring these crimes is the inconsistency between UNMIK data and the Kosovo Police.

There is a lot of tension between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians in the North, in the region Mitrovica. The Bridge that links the south part of the city with the north part of the city has become a stage for violence between the two ethnic groups. Such incidents as violence against the two ethnic groups are not as common in other parts of Kosovo. Although the last few years have witnessed a reduction in the number of attacks, terrorism remains a real threat. Terrorist attacks of ethnic origin, aftermath of the 1999 war, could occur in cities like Pristina and Mitrovica, as well as in more peripheral areas. Distinguishing between crimes as such and ethnically motivated crimes is difficult. Because of that, there are no reliable figures concerning inter-ethnic crime. Another major problem in exploring these crimes is the inconsistency between the UNMIK data and the Kosovo Police. Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians in the North, in the Mitrovica region. The bridge that links to the north of the city has become a stage for violence between the two ethnic groups. Other incidents in Kosovo. In the last years Kosovo has become an international hub for radicalization and a training center for foreign fighters willing to operate in Europe. Wahhabism, which is dominant in Saudi Arabia, has gained a foothold in Kosovo through Saudi diplomacy. Saudi money has paid for new mosques, while Saudi-educated imams have arrived since the end of the war in 1999. During UN administration, Saudi Arabian organizations sought to establish a cultural foothold in Kosovo. 98 Wahhabist schools were set up by Saudi organizations during UN administration. Hundreds of Kosovo Albanians have joined jihad in the Middle East. The Kosovo Police arrested some 40 suspected Islamist militants on 11 August 2014. These were suspected of having fought with Islamist insurgent groups in Syria and Iraq. By April 2015, a total of 232 Kosovo Albanians had gone to Syria to fight with Islamist groups, most commonly the Islamic State. Forty of these are from the town of Skënderaj (Srbica), according to Kosovo police reports. As of September 2014, a total of 48 ethnic Albanians have been killed fighting in Syria. The number of fighters from Kosovo is at least 232 and estimated at more than 300 (as of 11 February 2016). A 2017 UNDP study shows that Islamic extremism has grown in Kosovo.

3. Law enforcement structures and actors

3.1 The Police

The main law enforcement agency of the Republic of Kosovo is the Kosovo Police (Albanian: Policia e Kosovës). It was created in 1999 in the aftermath of the Kosovo War and subsequent withdrawal of the Yugoslav forces from Kosovo. The establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) included a large international policing component, called the UNMIK Police. They were given two main tasks by UN Security Council Resolution 1244: 1) to establish a new police force; 2) in the meantime, to maintain civil law and order. The name for the new police force, "Kosovo Police Service", was chosen by the first international police commissioner, Sven Frederiksen. Recruitment began immediately, and former police school premises in the city of Vučitrn were renovated by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which began to train cadets. As of February 2008, when Kosovo declared independence, the force became a governmental agency of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. Before, it was subordinated to the UNMIK Police, and the police commissioner retained command authority over both the international police and the Kosovo Police. The current Police Chief is Naim Rexha. Graduated from Prishtina University, he joined Kosovo Police in 1999. The ethnic composition of the Kosovo Police is a source of problems both within the agency and with the citizens. The Kosovo Serbian minority has always proved hostile in recognizing and accepting the interventions of the police. Moreover, within the police force several episodes of clashes and disciplinary problems involving officers, based on ethnic issues, have been registered over years.

The Kosovo Police

Kosovo has 33 police stations and six regional police offices. Regional police offices are located in Pristina, Peja (Pejë), Prizren, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Mitrovica. Five of the six regional police offices report directly to the police headquarters in Pristina, the office in northern Kosovo reports to the Police Component of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). The Kosovo Police has grown steadily since 1999, and in 2004 reached its planned full size of nearly 7,000 officers. As of 2010, it has around 9,000 employees. About 90% of Kosovo Police officers are ethnic Albanians while 10% are ethnic minorities with mostly Serbs. The following is the composition of the police force, by rank: 81.47 percent are police officers; 11.89 percent are sergeants; 4.28 percent are lieutenants; 1.26 percent are captains; and less than 1 percent have the rank of major, lieutenant colonel, colonel, assistant general director, general director, or deputy general director of the police. The Kosovo Police is divided into several departments:

- Department of Operations
- Investigation Department
- Department of Border
- Department of Support Services
- Human Resources Department

A Police Inspectorate was established in 2006 as an external oversight agency, and it began investigations in 2007. The Inspectorate is under the authority of the Ministry of Interior, but is independent of the Kosovo police.

In turn the Department of Operations has 3 divisions:

- Division of Public Safety (engaged in fulfilling the general operational objective of Kosovo Police and planning activities)
- Division of Specialized Units (responsible for management and lead of specialized directorates)
- Road Traffic Division (aimed at providing security services in the field of road safety)

The investigation department is also articulated on 3 divisions:

- Crime investigation division (which addresses investigation issues)
- Division against organized crime (specialized for prevention and curbing organized crime phenomena)
- Special anti-corruption department (SACD)

The bulk of the Kosovo Police are patrol officers. However the force has specialized investigative units in all six regions, including Organized Crime Units, Forensics Units, and several others. In addition to those specialist units in the investigative side of law enforcement, every region has a Regional Operational Support Unit (called ROSU), who are trained for times where forced entry is needed on search warrants, as well as acting as front line officers during riot situations, or in times when crowd control is necessary. The Kosovo Police Close Protection unit serves as the body guards for visiting heads of state, and for Kosovo's own political leaders.

Among the special units of Kosovo police we find:

- *Regional Street Crimes Unit / Regional Operational Support Unit.* The first ROSU in Kosovo was for Prishtina and originally called Regional Street Crimes Unit (RSCU) in early 2002, which was created and led by CIVPOL Chief Angel G. Queipo (Florida, United States) and Deputy Chief Jim Renfrow (Arkansas, United States) who implemented undercover operations, narcotics interdiction, medium risk arrest warrants, and special police tactics to include public disorder units within the ranks of the RSCU. The unit was commanded by CIVPOL Chief Jim Renfrow in the second year and then later Peter Willig of Germany took over after Renfrow ended his CIVPOL mission in late 2003. The creation of the RSCU was under the command of Pristina Regional Commander, Superintendent Paul Hamlin (Northern Ireland). That unit was based in Kosovo Polje and was used to support all regions as needed.
- *Close Protection Unit.* The main task of the Close Protection Unit is to provide personal protection to VIPs. In addition, the Close Protection Unit provides protection for persons believed to be subject to threats. The Close Protection Unit also undertakes tactical operations, escorting delegations, and evacuations of both international staff and Kosovo Police officers. The RSCU or Regional Street Crime Unit was formed in May 2001 and was active for duties (16 Operators were selected among 45 that were on intensive training.)

- *Special Intervention Unit SIU* (Former GSI / SIG - FIT) This KPS special police unit was created in 2003. The start was a standard SWAT unit (two teams of 15 officers each) trained by two American contractors. In March 2005 the "Special Intervention Group – GSI / SIG" project ("Grupi Special i Intervenimit GSI" in Albanian) was launched on a low-profile bases as the Elite "CT" & "HR" force of Kosovo Police. A strict selection policy was followed through several firm tests; and only 18 trainees were selected among hundreds of willing volunteer officers to be the first generation of the unit. It was formed, established, equipped, coached and trained by a team of UNMIK professional specialized instructors. In the late 2007 the Unit started its upgrading to face new challenges and ever changing threats. It took the name of SIU, stands for Specialized Intervention Unit. In late 2008, UNMIK handed the task over to EULEX (European Union Rule of Law mission)
- Ranks*
- Kosovo Police members are thus ranked:
- Junior officers:
 - Police officer
 - Sergeant
 - Senior officers:
 - Lieutenant
 - Captain
 - Supervisory officers:
 - Major
 - Lieutenant colonel
 - Colonel
 - Staff officers:
 - Major General
 - Lieutenant General
 - Colonel General

3.2 Other security forces

Kosovo Intelligence Agency

The Kosovo Intelligence Agency (Albanian: Agjencia Kosovare e Inteligjencës, abbr. AKI) is a civilian intelligence agency of the Republic of Kosovo responsible for providing national security intelligence to senior Kosovo policymakers. The AKI also engages in covert activities at the request of the Prime Minister of the Kosovo. The AKI's primary function is to collect information about foreign governments, corporations, and individuals, and to advise public policymakers. The agency conducts covert operations and paramilitary actions, and exerts foreign political influence through its Special Activities Division. The current head of AKI is Shpend Maxhuni, come in office after former chief Driton Gashi resigned. Maxhuni has been with the Kosovo Police since its establishment in 1999 and has served as director from 2011.

Kosovo Security Force

Kosovo does not have a military force; the Kosovo Security Force was established in 2009 and maintains a non-military mandate in four core competencies: search-and-rescue, firefighting, demining, and hazardous material response. The Kosovo Security Force (Albanian: Forca and Sigurisë së Kosovës, Serbian: Kosovske Bezbednosne Snage, KSF) is an emergency force in charge of conducting crisis response operations in Kosovo and abroad and civil protection operations in Kosovo. Its main tasks are operations in the search and rescue areas, the reclamation of explosive devices, fire-fighting, and the disposal of hazardous materials. However, it is also equipped with light weapons, and the Kosovo government intends to turn it into an army. The Commander of KSF is Lieutenant General Kadri Kastrati.

In March 2008, the Kosovo Force (KFOR), led by NATO, and the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) began preparations for the formation of the Kosovo Security Force. According to the guidelines set out in the Ahtisaari Plan, the Security Force is authorized to carry small arms and the Kosovo government and the international community plan to bring force in line with NATO standards. The admission and training of the personnel began in early June, when NATO experts arrived in Kosovo to lead the process, and from early December 2008, when the enrollment of candidates between the ages of 18 and 30 began. The law states that the force should be 2500 soldiers with a reserve of 800. On September 15, 2009, the Kosovo Security

Force officially began work, with its initial operational capabilities after an eight-month training with NATO instructors. In 2010, KSF sided in northern Albania on two separate occasions to carry out flood relief operations to support the Albanian national response. On November 22, 2011, Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi retired from KSF and President Atifete Jahjaga appointed former operations director, Major General Kadri Kastrati, to succeed him as Commander of the Force. President Jahjaga also promoted Kastrati to the rank of lieutenant general. On July 9, 2013, Kosovo Security Forces achieved Full Operational Capability (FOC) as determined by NATO. While the overall security situation has improved on the ground, this light weapons force responsible for civil protection operations and assistance to civil authorities in response to natural disasters and other emergencies is now being trained to the standards set by NATO. The Declaration of Full Operational Capability of the North Atlantic Council on 9 July 2013 means that the KSF is fully capable of performing the tasks assigned to it within the framework of its mandate. The KSF will conduct non-military security functions that are not appropriate for the police. In more concrete terms, this force of about 2,200 soldiers will deal with search and rescue operations, the elimination of explosive devices, control and reclamation of hazardous materials, fire-fighting and other humanitarian assistance activities.

Recruitment for the Kosovo Security Force began in early 2009, once NATO had accepted (June 2008) to implement new tasks in addition to those agreed under Resolution 1244. These new tasks included the dissolution of the Body of Protection of Kosovo, and the creation of the KSF and a civil structure to monitor it. One of the main objectives was to encourage all minorities to register, in particular attention was given to the implementation of the recruitment process in two languages - Albanian and Serbian. The result was a professional, multi-ethnic, voluntary force that should continue to remain a source of regional stability.

On 18 October 2018, the Kosovo Assembly approved to transform the Kosovo Security Force into the Kosovo Armed Forces within 10 years after 98 of the 120 deputies voted in favor, and the remaining 22 remained absent from the vote, including 11 representatives from the Serb minority who boycotted the vote.

3.3 The judiciary

According to the 2008 Constitution of Kosovo, the judicial system is composed of the Supreme Court and subordinate courts, a Constitutional Court, and an independent prosecutorial institution. The courts are administered by the Kosovo Judicial Council. Until 2010, when the Law on Courts was approved by the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo, the 1978 Law on Courts was in force. Under this law there was a regular system of courts consisting of the Municipal Court, District Court, the Court for Minor Offences, the High Court for Minor Offences and the Supreme Court. After the Constitution was enacted, another Court was added to the judicial system: Constitutional Court. But, as explained below, with the new law in force, the system of the Courts and Prosecution Offices had started to change. In 1999, UNMIK was deployed to provide an interim administration of Kosovo through the present times and now when the justice system operates under the authority of the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo. This period is subdivided into four major periods, i.e. the establishment of an emergency justice system by UNMIK (June to December 1999), the justice system under the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (January 2000 to May 2001), the justice system under the Constitutional Framework for Self-Government in Kosovo (May 2001 to February 2008), and the justice system under the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo (February 2008 to present). On 15 December 2000, UNMIK Regulation 2000/64 was issued allowing for the assignment of international judges, prosecutors, or so called "Regulation 64 Panels", for particular cases. On 6 July 2003, UNMIK Regulation 2003/25 and 2003/26 were issued, enacting the Provisional Criminal Code and Provisional Criminal Procedure Code, replacing the Yugoslav Federal Criminal Code still in effect. On March 13, 2008, the Assembly passed Law 2008/03-L053, the Law on Jurisdiction, Case Selection and Case Allocation of EULEX Judges and Prosecutors in Kosovo, as well as Law 2008/03-L052, the Law on Special Prosecution Office of the Republic of Kosovo. These laws recognize the authority of EULEX judges, prosecutors, and courts to work in tandem with their Kosovar counterparts, which are governed by the Assembly of the EULEX Judges and an Assembly of the EULEX Prosecutors, respectively.

The 2013 reform

Provisions of the Law on Courts which came into force on January 1, 2013 define the new court structure and their hierarchy in Kosovo. The new structure not only changes the old court organization, but it also establishes new courts which are now located in both, larger and small municipalities. The aim of this structure is to bring more efficiency courts, and bring judges and court-houses more closer to the citizens of Kosovo. From January 1, 2013 the new structure of prosecution offices in Kosovo will reflect the goal of the general justice reform in Kosovo towards more efficient, modern and professional approach to prosecution services, and better access to justice for all people. effective rule of law was and will remain critical for Kosovo to develop political, economic and

social stability and security. Key to ensuring effective rule of law is a functioning justice system. Any form of political, administrative and judicial organization reflects the problems and challenges of its time, which it attempts to address by certain organizational forms. However, with time passing, the original purposes and policies tend to be overshadowed by new problems and challenges to be addressed by organizations, which were designed in a different historical context. In order to properly understand existing judicial institutions and bodies, it is important to understand the historical context which shaped their formation and structure. A reform of existing institutions cannot be undertaken without simultaneously taking into consideration the 'past purposes' and the 'current challenges' of such institutions.

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in Kosovo and shall have territorial jurisdiction over the entirety of the Republic of Kosovo. The Supreme Court is competent to adjudicate: requests for extraordinary legal against final decisions of the courts of Republic of Kosovo, as provided by Law; revision against second instance decisions of the courts on contested issues, as provided by Law; defines principled attitudes and legal remedies for issues that have importance for unique application of Laws by the courts in the territory of Kosovo; Kosovo Property Agency cases as defined by Law; in its Special Chamber, Privatization Agency of Kosovo or Kosovo Trust Agency cases as provided by Law; and other matters as provided by Law. The Supreme Court includes the Appeals Panel of the Kosovo Property Agency and the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, the judges of which are part of the Supreme. The Supreme Court of the Republic of Kosovo is Located in Prishtina.

The Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals is established as the second instance court with territorial jurisdiction throughout the Republic of Kosovo. The organization of this court is as follows:

- General Department
- Serious Crimes Department
- Commercial Matters Department
- Administrative Matters Department
- Department for Juveniles

This court is competent to review: all appeals from decisions of the Basic Courts; to decide at third instance, upon the appeal that is permitted by Law and for the conflict of jurisdiction between basic courts; conflicts of jurisdiction between Basic Courts; and other cases as provided by Law. The Court of Appeals is also located in Prishtina.

The Seven Basic Courts

The Basic Courts are the courts of first instance in the Republic of Kosovo. Among other competencies, these courts are also competent to give international legal support and to decide for

acceptance of decisions of foreign courts. These basic courts are located in 7 largest municipalities in Kosovo: Pristina, Gnjilane, Prizren, Djakovica, Peć, Uroševac and Mitrovica. In addition to its principal seat, each Basic Court shall maintain branches of the court as provided in the Law.

- The department organization of the basic courts is as follows:
- Department for Commercial Matters operating in the Basic Court of Pristina for the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo;
- Department for Administrative Cases operating in the Basic Court of Pristina for the entire territory of the Republic of Kosovo;
- Department for Serious Crimes operating at the principal seat of each Basic Court;
- General Department operating in each Basic Court and in each branch of the Basic Court.
- Department for Juveniles, operating within the Basic Courts.

Prosecution

The structure of prosecution offices is established according to the Law on State Prosecutor, parts of which entered into force on January 1, 2013, in compatibility with the new Law on Courts.

Office of the Chief State Prosecutor: Office of the State Prosecutor and Kosovo Prosecutorial Council acts for the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kosovo, under the direct supervision of the Chief State Prosecutor, and has exclusive jurisdiction in the third instance over cases with extraordinary legal remedies. Its territorial competency covers the entire territory of Kosovo.

Special Prosecutor: Acts for the Serious Crimes Department of the Basic Court in Pristina, and handles cases of commission of terrorism, facilitation of the commission of terrorism, war crimes, employment of prohibited means of methods of warfare, and other matters as foreseen by the law on Law on Special Prosecution Office of the Republic of Kosovo. Cases are handled by prosecutors of the Republic of Kosovo and EULEX prosecutors.

Appellate Prosecution Office: acts for the Court of Appeals, and handles in the second instance all criminal matters prosecuted and decided in the first instance by the basic level: all appeals for matters decided by basic courts, conflicts of jurisdiction and other cases provided by law. The Appellate Prosecution Office consists of the following departments:

- General Crimes Department
- Serious Crimes Department
- Juveniles Crimes Department

Judicial Supervision

The Kosovo Judicial Council (KJC) is the highest oversight body of the Kosovo Judicial System and an independent institution, and its main responsibility is the administration of the entire Judicial System. The overall purpose of Kosovo Judicial Council, as mandated by the applicable legal framework is to ensure an independent, fair, apolitical, accessible, professional and impartial judicial system, which

reflects the multi-ethnic nature of Kosovo as well as the internationally recognized principles of human rights and gender equality.

Corruption

Corruption in Kosovo poses high risks for companies operating or planning to invest in the country. A lack of transparency and accountability in Kosovo's public administration results in widespread corruption and negatively affects the investment climate. The judiciary, customs, public utilities and procurement sectors are the most affected by corruption. While anti-corruption laws are strong, the judicial system is inefficient, leading to poor enforcement. Active and passive bribery, extortion, money laundering and abuse of office are prohibited by Kosovo's Criminal Code, while facilitation payments are not addressed. According to Kosovan law, all gifts received by public officials should be declared and registered. Notwithstanding, the practices of offering gifts and bribery are common in Kosovo. The judicial system is considered among the most corrupt public institutions in Kosovo. On the other hand, There is a moderate risk of corruption for companies when dealing with the police in Kosovo. However the police in Kosovo remains subject to political pressure and internal corruption. According to the Corruption Perception Index 2017 published by Transparency International, Kosovo is 85th out of 180 countries.

4. Migrations and Human Rights Issues

4.1 Internal and International Migration

Migration is an extremely delicate issue in a context like Kosovo, since, historically, migrations on an ethnic basis have laid the foundations for the numerous conflicts that have occurred. Just think of the great migrations of Albanians throughout modern history, or the colonization policies perpetrated by Milošević (see the chapter on recent history). Regarding both internal migration and migration to other countries, the most important trend in recent history occurred during and immediately after the Kosovo war in 1999. Thousands of Serbian refugees have settled in the enclaves and territories bordering Serbia or directly in other countries such as Serbia, Hungary and Montenegro. To date, a large number of refugees from Kosovo still live in camps and temporary shelters in Serbia. In 2002, Serbia and Montenegro reported hosting 277,000 internally displaced persons, including 201,641 people displaced from Kosovo to Serbia, 29,451 displaced from Kosovo to Montenegro and about 46,000 displaced within Kosovo itself, including 16,000 returning refugees who are unable to live in their original homes. Today, based on the 2011 Population Census data, Kosovo's population can be described as a migratory population. Out of 1,739,825 persons enumerated in total in the Population Census (April 2011), 517,992 thousand persons, or around 30% of them, had experienced at least one migration.

Internal migration

In recent times Kosovo experienced internal migration phenomena between rural and urban areas. This has resulted in overpopulation of several urban and suburban areas and underpopulation in rural, mainly mountainous and hilly areas. The data show that in recent years we have a new redistribution of population within Kosovo and municipalities. Various factors affected such a movement, including lack of basic infrastructure in rural areas (roads, sewage system, piped water) for a long period of time. Nevertheless, in recent years the infrastructure in rural areas has significantly improved. For various reasons, a significant number of Kosovo's population during their life had internally migrated from one municipality to another municipality. Over 15,700 residents moved out from the municipality of Podujeva, 15,600 residents moved from Prishtina, while the population of nationally emigrated residents of the municipality of Kamenica was over 10,800 residents. The largest amount of internal migration in relation to the number of resident inhabitants was: Kamenica, where 10,815 or 30% of the total of 36,085 residents have emigrated to other Kosovo municipalities, then the municipality of Shtërpce with 22.7%, and Obiliq with 22.4%. This data indicates that these municipalities are losing a significant portion of their population (negative net migration).

14 municipalities had a positive internal migration balance. Municipalities which mostly benefited from this migration were: Graçanica, Kllokot, Fushë Kosova and Prishtina, while higher

negative balance of internal migration occurred in the municipalities of: Kamenica, Podujeva, Skenderaj and Dragash. Other municipalities have more limited population changes, due to internal migration: in Istog, Gjakova and Peja the migration balance was lower than 2%, indicating that the push and pull factors are more or less equal in these areas.

International migration

According to official data collected from the FORM S1, ' the number of persons (only of those born in Kosovo) who had emigrated from Kosovo was 380,826 persons. According to this data, in proportion to Kosovo's resident population, 21.4% of population was living outside Kosovo. Kosovo Agency of Statistics (KAS) is aware that this number of migrants is higher, on the grounds that during the population census, for some of these migrants, there were no close relatives available to provide complete information on the number of household members who had emigrated outside Kosovo. The largest number of migrants was from the municipalities of: Prishtina, Gjakova, Mitrovica, and Suha Reka. While, the smallest number of migrants had small municipalities: Ranillug, Partesh and Mamusha. The number of migrants in proportion to the number of resident population in Kosovo varies greatly in different parts of the country. In municipalities with a small resident population, the migration rate was lower such as in: Shtërpce, Graçanica, Ranillug and Mamusha where the rate was under 10%. However, it goes up to around 30-47% in other municipalities, such as: Suha Reka, Mitrovica, Klina, and Gjakova. Suha Reka had the largest rate of migrant population in proportion to its resident population, with around 47% of its population living abroad. In Prishtina, the reported migration rate was around 15% of the resident population, i.e. around 30 thousand persons. It seems that migration in certain countries was related to the first migrants from a certain municipality or region who have been settled in that country. Hence, people from Suha Reka predominantly had emigrated to Italy and Slovenia, but migrants from Prizren and Malisheva were also concentrated in these areas. People from Gjakova emigrated mainly to Switzerland and Belgium, while people from Mitrovica mainly moved to Germany and Sweden. People from Prishtina emigrated mainly to English-speaking countries

such as USA and England, while people from Ferizaj and Gjilan were more concentrated in Switzerland and France. It can be clearly noted that the largest migration abroad happened in the 1990s, reaching its peak during the war in 1998-99, when 51,728 residents were reported to have emigrated (respectively 21,973 and 29,755) accounting for 13.6% of all Kosovan migrants. A part of those individuals who moved to other countries during the war in Kosovo, are still living in those countries. The years 1992 (6.03%) and 1990 (4.9%) are also characterized by a massive migration from Kosovo. 2001 is characterized by a lower migration rate around 1.7%.

4.2 Human Rights Situation

Overview

The human rights situation in Kosovo is problematic, as there are still underground ethnic conflicts and several episodes of discrimination. Nevertheless, some slow progress is being made. Currently, in Kosovo weak progress on human rights is marred by a political deadlock following snap elections in June, with a government that came in office just in September. The Kosovo Special Court investigating on war crimes committed during the 1998-1999 Kosovo war was made operational and is expected to file its first indictments. Journalists are continuously facing threats and intimidation, and prosecutions of crimes against journalists are slow. Tensions between Serbs and Kosovo Albanians continued, particularly in the northern areas. Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, historically discriminated, are continuously subject to harassment and intimidation by the Albanian majority.

Accountability for War Crimes

In July, after months of delay, Kosovo's Constitutional Court approved the revised rules of procedure and evidence for the Specialist Chambers and Specialist Prosecutor's Office, the Hague-based court tasked with trying serious war crimes committed during the 1998-1999 Kosovo war. This allows the court to issue first indictments. The court is set to adjudicate cases investigated by the Special Investigative Task Force, prompted by a 2011 Council of Europe report accusing some Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK) members of abductions, beatings, summary executions, and the forced removal of human organs in Kosovo and Albania during and after the Kosovo war. Senior UÇK fighters are expected to be indicted and stand trial. The court will operate under Kosovo laws, with 19 international judges, appointed by the European Union in February. In January 2017, Kosovo's special prosecutor charged an ex-paramilitary Serbian man with war crimes in Kosovo Polje in 1999. The suspect is charged with torturing civilian ethnic Albanians. In February, the prosecutor issued 57 warrants of arrest of Serbian citizens suspected of war crimes, without providing further details of those wanted. By early September, mixed panels consisting of the European Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) and local judges handed down five decisions related to war crimes. Formal investigations were underway in 34 cases, and 374 cases were pending at a preliminary investigation stage. EULEX has been involved in a total of 43 verdicts since established in 2008. The Human Rights Review Panel, an independent body set up in 2009 to review allegations of human rights violations by EULEX staff, ruled in eight cases between January and October, four of which were follow-up decisions in earlier cases where violations had been found by the panel. Thirty cases were pending before the panel at time of writing.

Treatment of Minorities

Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians continue to face problems acquiring personal documents, affecting their ability to access health care, social assistance, and education. There was slow implementation of a new strategy for the integration of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. The strategy was adopted in 2016 and focused on improving civil registration, access to housing, education, health care, and employment. Public funds

to finance the strategy's programs were lacking. Inter-ethnic tensions continued during 2017 particularly in Kosovo's divided north. Kosovo police registered 15 cases of inter-ethnic violence between January and August 2017, involving disruption of public order, defamatory graffiti, incitement of religious, ethnic and racial hatred, and light bodily injury, without specifying the total number per category, making effective scrutiny of police response to inter-ethnic violence difficult. Kosovo police in August stated that cases were under investigation. The employment of minorities in public institutions remained limited and generally confined to lower levels of the government. According to a report from the Kosovo Democratic Institute think tank, only 6.2 percent of the government's civil service employees were non-Albanian minorities, although the law on civil service mandates that 10 percent of the employees at the local and national levels be minorities. The report noted that the members of Ashkali, Egyptian, Gorani, and Roma communities were "visibly underrepresented" at all civil service levels. The report also stated the government lacked an effective mechanism for monitoring levels of minority employment in public institutions.

Women's Rights

Domestic violence remained widespread in Kosovo. Inadequate police response, few prosecutions and failure by judges to issue restraining orders against abusive spouses contributed to the problem. The government in April adopted a new National Strategy and Action Plan against Domestic Violence, replacing a 2011-2014 strategy, and in May launched the Crime Victim Compensation Program. As a result victims are now able to seek compensation from the state for their injuries. EULEX noted that courts often applied more lenient penalties than the legal minimum in rape cases, particularly in cases involving minors. EULEX found that courts rarely took steps to protect victims and witnesses, nor did they close hearings to the public as required by law. According to the Kosovo Women's Network, more than two thirds of women had been victims of domestic violence, with 21 percent of respondents to a 2015 survey agreeing, "It is OK for a husband to hit his wife." Advocates maintained that such KOSOVO 27 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016 that violence was underreported for reasons that included the social stigma associated with reporting such occurrences, a lack of trust in judicial institutions, traditional social attitudes in the male-dominated society, and a lack of viable options for victims. The law treats domestic violence as a civil matter unless the victim suffers bodily harm. Failure to comply with a civil court's judgment relating to a domestic violence case is a criminal and prosecutable offense, although prosecutions for this offense were rare. According to victims' advocates, police responded according to established protocols to rape and domestic abuse allegations.

As regards gender equality in the labor market, relatively few women occupied upper-level management positions in business, police, or government. Women constituted 45 percent of the public-sector workforce in 2015. According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry, women owned approximately 20 percent of all registered businesses. A recent study by the think tank

Democracy for Development found that only one in 10 women in the country were employed.

Religious Freedom

The constitution prohibits religious discrimination and provides for freedom of religion, subject to limitations to ensure public order, health, and safety or to protect the rights of others. The law does not allow religious groups to register as legal entities, creating obstacles for them in conducting their affairs. The government approved and parliament considered but did not vote on a draft law that would allow religious groups to register as legal entities so they would be able to conduct business and legal matters with the state and private entities. Religious groups said municipal authorities often did not provide them with equal rights and benefits, especially with regard to religious property and burial sites. The Pristina Municipality, citing the lack of a construction permit, halted Serbian Orthodox monks from cleaning and making light repairs at the unfinished St. Saviors Church after vandals set fire to it. The Serbian Orthodox Church (SOC) said Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sport (MCYS) Kujtim Shala did not fulfill a pledge to issue a permit for the reconstruction of a chapel in the Holy Archangels Monastery in Prizren. The government worked with the Kosovo Islamic Community (BIK) to combat violent extremism, and condemned vandalism of religious places. Protesters threw stones and Molotov cocktails at participants in several events hosting Serbian Orthodox pilgrims. In one incident, ethnic Albanian protestors threw stones and prevented Serbian Orthodox pilgrims from celebrating the Feast of the Assumption in Mushutishte /Musutiste. On several occasions, vandals damaged SOC religious properties, despite government protection. An ethnic Serb damaged a Muslim mosque.

Asylum Seekers and Displaced Persons

The law provides for freedom of movement within the country, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, and the government and EULEX generally respected these rights. Nevertheless, interethnic tensions, roadblocks placed by hardliners, and real and perceived security concerns restricted freedom of movement. Security concerns also limited the number of displaced Kosovo Serbs seeking to return. During the first nine months of the year, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) registered 333 voluntary returns of members of ethnic minorities to Kosovo, up from 276 during that period in 2016. The Kosovo Ministry of Internal Affairs registered 2,480 forced returns to Kosovo between January and October, including 159 Roma, 138 Ashkali, and 17 Egyptians. Ethnic data was missing for the month of June. Among those forcibly deported to Kosovo, 646 were children. Most of these forced returns were from Germany and returnees received limited assistance upon return.

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

According to human rights NGOs, the Kosovo's LGBTI community faced overt discrimination in employment, housing, determination of statelessness, and access to education and health care. The NGOs said societal pressure persuaded most LGBTI persons to conceal their sexual orientation or gender identity. NGOs reported that discrimination against LGBTI individuals often went unreported, alleging that police were insensitive to the needs of their community. Gay rights activists reported an increase of hate speech online against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people in October, in connection with Gay Pride in Pristina. The October 2016 Pride event was the first of its kind ever held in Kosovo. In July 2016, gay rights activists issued a call to challenge marriage laws in Kosovo, which define marriage as strictly between two people of different sexes, as being contrary to the constitution.

Freedom of Media

Growing financial difficulties of media outlets put the editorial independence of all Kosovian media at risk. While some self-sufficient media outlets adopted editorial and broadcast policies independent of political and business interests, those with fewer resources sometimes accepted financial support from various sources in exchange for positive coverage or for refraining from publishing negative stories harmful to funders' interests. Broadcast media, particularly television channels, had more access to substantial sources of revenue than print media. The legislative assembly controlled the budget of public broadcasting station RTK and its affiliates. The public perceived private broadcasters as more independent, but smaller stations reportedly faced an increasing risk of closure and became more reliant on scarce outside funding sources. Unregulated internet media exerted further pressure on broadcast outlets by republishing articles from print or other internet sources, mostly without attribution. Journalists complained that media owners and managers prevented them from publishing or broadcasting stories critical of the government, political parties, or particular officials due to the owners' preferences for, or connections with, the individuals concerned. In some cases owners reportedly threatened to dismiss journalists if they produced stories critical of the government and certain interest groups connected to the political establishment. Journalists complained that owners prevented them from producing stories on high-level government corruption.

Death Penalty

According to Kosovo Probation Service, the Republic of Kosovo does not recognize death penalty, since such punishment was abrogated by UNMIK's Regulation No. 1999/24 dated December 12th 1999. Instead of the death penalty, the punishment of 21 to 40 years of imprisonment was provided.

5. The UN and Kosovo

5. The UN and Kosovo

In 1999, in compliance with UN Resolution 1244, Kosovo passed under transnational UN administration (UNMIK). Although today Kosovo has declared independence and enjoys an autonomous government, which acts according to UNMIK guidelines, the operations and activities of the United Nations

are still many and fundamental for the management of the country. The UN system in Kosovo is comprised of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) led by the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRS), and the UN agencies, funds, programmes and affiliates,

which are grouped under the coordinated umbrella of the United Nations Kosovo Team (UNKT), and are led by a UN Development Coordinator (UNDC). The priorities of the Mission remain to promote security, stability and respect for human rights in Kosovo and in the region. In furtherance of its goals, UNMIK continues its constructive engagement with Pristina and Belgrade, the communities in Kosovo and regional and international actors.

The successful holding of Kosovo local elections, including in the northern Kosovo municipalities, for the first time under a single legislative framework, has opened space for new political dynamics within Kosovo, as well as the beginning of a new phase of engagement between the parties (Serbia and Kosovo) towards full implementation of the 19 April agreement. The ongoing direct discussions between Pristina and Belgrade were instrumental to that success and will remain important for ensuring that the progress achieved withstands challenges arising from differences of interpretation or tensions on the ground. Looking ahead, UNMIK will continue to enhance its support of the implementation of the agreements reached between Belgrade and Pristina. The resources of UNMIK, as well as of international partners on the ground, will continue to be fully applied toward supporting and facilitating such efforts. Alongside the UNMIK action, the following UN agencies are also present in Kosovo:

- United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations World Health Organization (WHO)
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
- The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)

- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- World Bank (WB)

The UN Resolution 1244 (1999)

United Nations Security Council resolution 1244, adopted on 10 June 1999, after recalling resolutions 1160 (1998), 1199 (1998), 1203 (1998) and 1239 (1999), authorised an international civil and military presence in Kosovo (which was part of called "Federal Republic of Yugoslavia") and established the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). It followed agreement by President Milošević of FRY to terms proposed by Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari and Russia's Chernomyrdin on 8 June, involving withdrawal of all Yugoslav state forces from Kosovo. Resolution 1244 was adopted by 14 votes to none against. China abstained despite being critical of the NATO offensive, particularly the bombing of its embassy in Belgrade. However, as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accepted the peace proposal, China did not veto the resolution. Serbia and several other UN members have underscored that resolution 1244 remains legally binding to all parties.

The main features of Resolution 1244 were to:

- Demand in particular that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia put an immediate and verifiable end to violence and repression in Kosovo;
- Complete verifiable phased withdrawal from Kosovo of all military, police and paramilitary forces;
- Place Kosovo under interim UN administration (performed by the UNMIK);
- Authorize a NATO-led peacekeeping force in Kosovo (currently performed by the Kosovo Force, KFOR);
- Allow for the return of an agreed number of Yugoslav and Serbian personnel to maintain a presence at Serbian Patrimonial sites and key border crossings;
- Direct UNMIK to establish provisional institutions of local self-government in Kosovo (PISG);
- Reaffirm the commitment of UN member states to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the other States of the region;
- Require the UN to assure the safe and unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in Kosovo and to ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants of the province;
- Require that the UÇK and other armed Kosovo Albanian groups be demilitarized;
- Authorize the United Nations to facilitate a political process to determine Kosovo's future status;

The UNMIK

Currently the UNMIK is organized in five central offices:

Office of Community Support (OCS)

The OCS plays an important role in monitoring, reporting and promoting enhanced responses to issues and concerns pertaining to all communities in Kosovo. OCS dispatches its experienced staff on a regular basis to minority community locales,

displacement and returns areas, and religious and cultural sites. OCS team members, whenever called upon and as appropriate, provide critical interface support between communities and institutional platforms for delivery of essential services at the local level. They help to ensure that vulnerable groups are able to access humanitarian and development assistance, that all communities enjoy equal access to available public services, and

that discriminatory policies and practices are reported and addressed.

UNMIK Office of Political Affairs

The UNMIK Office of Political Affairs monitors, analyses and reports on political developments, which could have an impact on stability in Kosovo and in the region so as to provide mission management and UN Headquarters with early warning and strategy recommendations. Political Affairs Officers maintain regular contacts with a broad range of government officials, political party representatives, civil society organizations, religious communities, the diplomatic corps, UN agencies and international organizations.

and regional standards. We also monitor rule of law developments, liaise with INTERPOL on international wanted notices and provide certification services with respect to documents for recognition by non-recognizing UN member States.

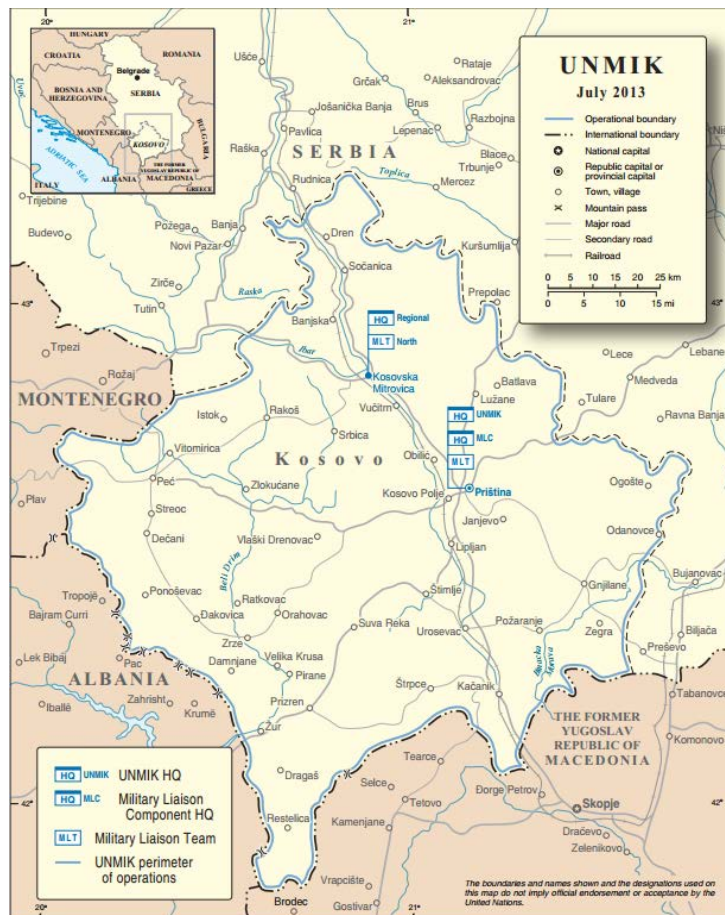
To date, the UNMIK mission displays a staff of 355. Of the total: 311 civilians
8 experts on mission
9 internal police officers
27 UN volunteers.

As regards the uniformed personnel, UNMIK can count on 4756 officers, including:

- 4718 police officers
- 38 military officers.

- *UNMIK Justice Section*

The UNMIK Justice Section provides support for strengthening rule of law institutions in Kosovo in accordance with international



UNMIK operational area and HQ's. Source: UN

6. The EU – Kosovo Relations

6.1 A priority partner

The European Union has played a leading role in the international effort to build a new future for Kosovo since 1999. Kosovo has a clear European perspective as part of the wider Western Balkans region. The EU is active in Kosovo through its Special Representative (EUSR), and the European Security and Defense Policy (ESDP) mission in the rule of law area (EULEX). The EU is also present through member countries' Embassies and Liaison offices. The European Union Office in Kosovo plays a pivotal role in implementing the EU agenda in the territory, especially the promotion of European norms. The Office ensures permanent political and technical dialogue between Kosovo and the EU institutions. The EUSR offers

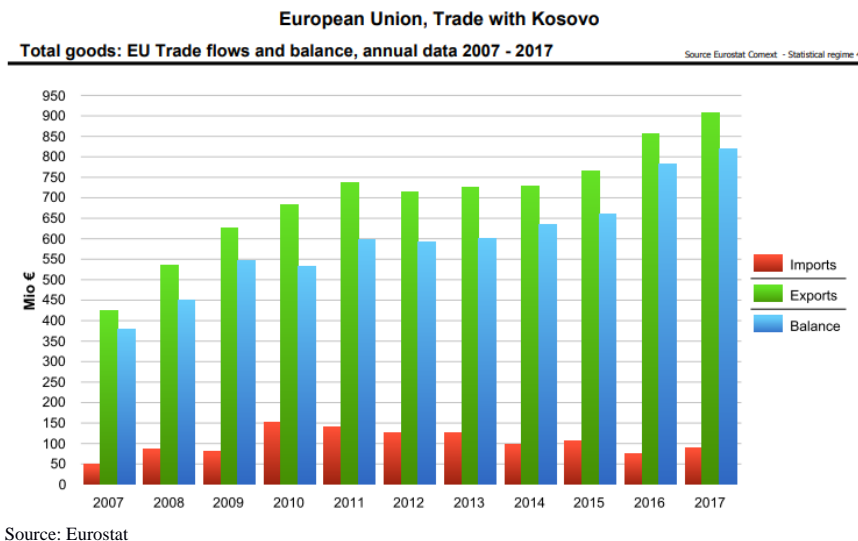
advice and support to the Government of Kosovo, coordinates the EU presence, and promotes human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) is the largest civilian mission ever launched under the European Security and Defense Policy. The aim is to assist the Kosovar authorities in the area of rule of law, specifically in the police, judiciary and customs. EULEX is a technical mission that mentors, monitors and advises, while retaining a number of limited executive powers.

The Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) is the European policy framework for relations between the EU and the Western Balkan countries, all the way to their eventual accession to the Union. The partnership between the EU and the Western Balkans is in the interest of all sides, promoting peace, stability, freedom, security and justice, prosperity and quality of life. The SAP promotes stabilization and the transition to a market economy, regional cooperation and preparation for EU accession. The EU is divided on their policy towards Kosovo, with 5 of 28 EU member states (Cyprus, Greece, Romania, Slovakia, Spain) not recognizing its sovereignty. Kosovo is officially considered a potential candidate for membership by the European Union, and it has been given a clear "European perspective" by the Council of the European Union. As confirmed by the Thessaloniki Summit in June 2003, Kosovo is firmly anchored in the framework of the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP), the EU policy which applies to the Western Balkans which is designed to prepare potential candidates for membership. On 20 April 2005 the European Commission adopted the Communication on Kosovo to the Council "A European Future for Kosovo" which reinforced the

Commission's commitment to Kosovo. On 20 January 2006, the Council adopted a European Partnership for Serbia and Montenegro including Kosovo as defined by UNSCR1244. The European Partnership is a means to materialize the European perspective of the Western Balkan countries within the framework of the SAP. The Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) adopted an Action Plan for the Implementation of the European Partnership in August 2006 and this document formed the current working basis between the EU and the PISG. The PISG regularly reported on the implementation of this action plan. Specific sectoral meetings have been set up for technical discussions in the following areas: justice, freedom and security; innovation, information society and social policy; agriculture, fisheries, forestry and food safety; internal market, competition and consumer/health protection; trade, industry, customs and taxation; transport, energy, environment and regional development; and economic and fiscal matters. Sectoral meetings take place once a year.

Responsibility for strengthening the role and influence of civil society in the enlargement countries lies primarily with the countries themselves. However, the European Commission is also willing to step up its own support for civil society development in these countries. Besides a significant increase in financial assistance to civil society projects under the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Commission intends to continue improving consultations with civil society representatives and work towards other measures to bolster civil society, for example by improving donor coordination and continuing work towards visa-free travel for citizens of the candidates and potential candidates.



6.2 The European commitment to the reconstruction of Kosovo

The European Union – both its member countries and its institutions, notably the European Commission – played and still play a prominent role in the reconstruction and development of Kosovo. The EU is by far the single largest donor providing assistance to Kosovo and the Western Balkan region, and is at the forefront of the reconstruction effort.

Kosovo has received more than €2.3 billion in EU assistance since 1999, and close to €1 billion in support to international presence since 1999. While it initially focused on emergency relief actions and reconstruction, it now concentrates on promoting Kosovo's institutions, sustainable economic development and Kosovo's European future. Eighteen EU

countries maintain representative offices in Kosovo, and numerous non-governmental organisations from EU countries are active there.

The European Union's political and financial commitment to Kosovo is two-fold. The EU provides assistance to meet Kosovo's institution-building needs and socio-economic development, and it also provides a substantial contribution to the international presence in Kosovo. Responding to the Council's request to use community instruments to promote Kosovo's economic and political development, the Commission organised a donors' conference in Brussels on 11 July 2008. The Kosovo authorities presented a Mid-Term Expenditure Framework 2009-11, which estimated a funding gap of some €1.1 billion for Kosovo's socio-economic development over the coming three years. A total of €1.2 billion was pledged by the international community, including some €100 million for a stabilisation fund for contingent liabilities. The EC pledged €508 million, consolidating Instrument for pre-accession assistance (IPA) and Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA) allocations to be disbursed during this period. The EU Member States pledged a further €286 million from their bilateral assistance budgets. In 2010, Kosovo received €67.3 million of financial aid under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA). The allocation for 2011 totals €68.7 million. The 2010 programme covers 11 areas from three major categories: political criteria, economic criteria, and European standards. The projects have been prepared in close cooperation with the authorities and beneficiaries in Kosovo and in close consultation with other donors. The Development Fund for the northern

Kosovo municipalities was established as a result of the EU facilitated Dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia. Conclusions reached at the Customs Working Group meeting held on 17 January 2013 in Brussels, in the context of the implementation of the Dialogue, determined that revenues collected at the crossing points of Gate 1 Jarinje and Gate 31 Brnjak would form the basis of the Development Fund revenues. The Fund was established with the aim to support the socio-economic development in the four northern municipalities, Leposavic, North Mitrovica, Zubin Potok and Zvecan. The money is public; its disbursement and expenditure follows Kosovo law. The operation of the Fund is decided by the Management Board composing the EU Special Representative in Kosovo as the Chair, the Kosovo Minister of Finance on behalf of the Kosovo authorities, and a representative of the Serb community in the four municipalities. Each municipality was encouraged to submit proposals for projects that will have a direct impact on improving the lives of its citizens. These can include the maintenance or construction of schools, hospitals or roads, but also business and social projects targeting specific sectors such as SMEs, agriculture producers, women, children or minorities. The revenues from both Crossing Points have been transferred into an account established in a commercial bank in Pristina determined by the EU. As of 31 December 2017, the Fund has collected in excess of 13.9 million EUR. To that date, the Management Board has approved 27 different projects amounting to 8.8 mil EUR. These projects are now in their implementation phase. A number of projects are being prepared for submission to the Management Board.

6.3 EULEX (European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo)

The European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX Kosovo) is a deployment of European Union (EU) police and civilian resources to Kosovo. This Common Security and Defence Policy diplomatic mission is the international civil presence in Kosovo operating under the umbrella of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) established by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. Serbia and a

number of countries had initially strictly objected to the mission and supported UNMIK, demanding approval by the United Nations Security Council, which was rendered in late 2008. After signing a five-point plan between Serbia and the UN, the UN Security Council approved the addition of the EULEX as an assistance mission subjected to the UNMIK, rather than outright replacing it. The mission included around 3,200 police and

judicial personnel (1,950 international, 1,250 local), and began a four-month deployment process on 16 February 2008. In September 2012, the Kosovo Assembly voted to extend EULEX to 2014. In April 2014, the Kosovo Assembly once again voted to extend EULEX's mandate, this time until June 2016. The European Council decided to extend the mandate of the EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo until 14 June 2018. Current Head of Mission of EULEX is Ms. Alexandra Papadopoulou.

The tasks of the mission are as follows:

- monitor, mentor and advise Kosovo authorities;
- maintain and promote the rule of law principle, public order, peace and stability;
- ensure that all the rule of law services are politically independent;
- ensure proper investigation of crimes and strengthen co-operation between police and prosecution authorities;
- strengthen co-operation and coordination in the judicial process;
- promote the fight against corruption, fraud and financial crime;
- implement Kosovo Anti-Corruption Strategy and Anti-Corruption Action Plan;
- ensure respect of human rights and gender mainstreaming along with all the activities of the mission.

The Strengthening Division

Being one of the two divisions composing the EULEX corpus, the Strengthening Division, in close coordination with other EU actors in the theatre, supports at the senior management level Kosovo's rule of law institutions in their progress towards sustainability and accountability. It essentially aims to further strengthen the chain of criminal justice, with an emphasis of fighting political interference, through Monitoring Mentoring and Advising. This includes the monitoring of selected Kosovo cases and support to the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina by assisting the implementation of remaining dialogue agreements in the sphere of rule of law. The Strengthening Division works closely with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kosovo Police, Kosovo Customs, Ministry of Justice, Kosovo Judicial Council, Kosovo Prosecutorial Council, as well as Kosovo Correctional Service. The Division monitors selected Kosovo cases dealing with serious crimes, such as corruption, organized crime, inter-ethnic crimes and war crimes, through the chain of criminal justice and it provides advice concerning prosecution and investigation of these crimes. In addition, it provides structured support to further develop the capacity and competence of Kosovo Judicial Council and Kosovo Prosecutorial Council. It also supports the Kosovo Correctional Service, including with a mobile capacity, focusing on the handling of high-profile detainees, and the management of prisons and detention centres, including Mitrovica Detention Centre. The Division provides support to the Kosovo Police senior management, including with a mobile capacity, to address structural and organizational weaknesses to improve targeting of serious criminality, including terrorism, corruption, organized crime, and to further increase capacities of specialized units. It provides Monitoring, Mentoring and Advising to the Regional Police Directorate in Mitrovica North and its police stations. It

monitors and assists Kosovo Border Police/Kosovo Customs in the implementation of the Kosovo IBM and migration strategies, including freedom of movement and IBM agreements, and joint activities with FRONTEX. The Division supports the Civil Registration Agency in implementing agreements in the framework of the EU-facilitated dialogue. The Strengthening Division consists of four units: Advisory Unit on Police and Border Matters, Advisory Unit on Internal Matters, Advisory Unit on Justice, and Correctional Unit.

The Executive Division

Under the new mandate of the Mission, EULEX judges and prosecutors continue to be embedded in Kosovo institutions and serve in accordance with Kosovo law until complete transition of functions to the competent Kosovo's authorities. EULEX judges and prosecutors adjudicate and prosecute constitutional, civil justice (property disputes and privatization matters), and selected highly sensitive criminal cases (war crimes, terrorism, inter-ethnic crimes, organized crime and corruption) both exclusively and jointly with the Kosovo counterpart. All cases, over which EULEX since 15 April 2014 no longer has jurisdiction, will continue to be dealt with exclusively by the judicial and prosecutorial authorities of Kosovo. The EULEX Chief Prosecutor will identify on-going cases that can be transferred to Kosovo prosecution. Some of these cases will be monitored by the Strengthening Division. The EULEX Chief Prosecutor is competent to request under extraordinary circumstances, defined by law, for new cases to be assigned to EULEX prosecutors. Similarly, the President of the EULEX Judges can request to the Kosovo Judicial Council the presence of EULEX judges on the court panels for ongoing or new cases. Joint cases are investigated and prosecuted by mixed teams, consisting of Kosovo prosecution authorities and EULEX prosecutors. In these cases, the Executive Division mentors the Kosovo counterparts in the form of peer-to-peer cooperation. Upon the appointment and integration of judicial personnel to the Mitrovica Basic Court and Prosecution Office, all EULEX cases in Mitrovica region are considered as joint cases. In the area of civil justice, the mandate of EULEX judges is restricted to cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court on Kosovo Privatization Agency related matters. In addition, the Executive Division is responsible for cases falling within the jurisdiction of the Appeal Panels relating to decisions from the Kosovo Property Claims Commission. The Deputy Head of the Executive Division of the Police is responsible for implementing the Mission's mandate in the executive police area. He is a direct counterpart of the Kosovo Police General Director. EULEX Police supports the investigation and prosecution of EULEX sensitive criminal cases. It maintains a Witness Protection Programme and fosters contacts with the police authorities in the region and beyond, including EUROPOL and INTERPOL. EULEX Police provides assistance to the Institute of Forensic Medicine. Its Formed Police Unit deals with limited public disorder incidents and assists Kosovo's Crowd and Riot Control Police in Kosovo. EULEX forensic experts embedded in the Institute of Forensic Medicine carry out their executive functions in solving the cases of missing persons in Kosovo. Head of the Executive Division is Dr. Katja Dominik. Deputy Head and Chief EULEX Prosecutor is Claudio Pala.

Deputy Head of Executive Division (Police) is Cezary Luba. Gertraud Marx- Leitenberger is the new Acting President of the EULEX Judges. The executive role of the Mission will gradually decrease as Kosovo's rule of law institutions develop and take on more responsibilities in these areas. The Executive Division

supports implementation of best European practices concerning human rights and other relevant legal principles. The Division works to support Kosovo authorities through international cooperation in police and justice issues.



Source: Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (CH)

7. Other regional organisations and Kosovo

7.1 NATO's role in KOSOVO (KFOR)

NATO has been leading a peace-support operation in Kosovo since June 1999 in support of wider international efforts to build peace and stability in the area. KFOR derives its mandate from United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244 of 10 June 1999 and the Military-Technical Agreement between NATO and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbia. KFOR operates under Chapter VII of the UN Charter and, as such, is a peace enforcement operation. Today, KFOR consists of

approximately 4,500 troops provided by 31 countries. It continues to help maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all people and communities in Kosovo, according to its mandate, which is to:

- deter renewed hostility and threats against Kosovo by Yugoslav and Serb forces;
- establish a secure environment and ensure public safety and order;

- demilitarize the Kosovo Liberation Army;
- support the international humanitarian effort;
- coordinate with, and support, the international civil presence.

Over time, as the security situation has improved, NATO has been gradually adjusting KFOR's force posture towards a smaller and more flexible force with fewer static tasks. All adjustments to the KFOR force posture are decided by the North Atlantic Council as the security situation on the ground evolves. KFOR is also cooperating and coordinating with the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and other international actors to support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo.

KFOR tasks have included assistance with the return or relocation of displaced persons and refugees; reconstruction and de-mining; medical assistance; security and public order; protection of patrimonial sites; border security; interdiction of cross-border weapons smuggling; implementation of a Kosovo-wide weapons, ammunition and explosives amnesty programme; weapons destruction; and support for the establishment of civilian institutions, law and order, the judicial and penal system, the electoral process and other aspects of the political, economic and social life of Kosovo. Special attention continues to be paid to the protection of minorities. This includes regular patrols near minority enclaves, check points, escorts for minority groups, protection of heritage sites such as monasteries, and donations including food, clothes and school supplies. On 12 June 2008, NATO agreed to start implementing additional tasks in Kosovo, like assist in the standing down of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and in the establishment of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), as well as a civilian structure to oversee the KSF.

Stand-up of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF)

NATO has supervised the stand-up and training of a multi-ethnic, professional and civilian-controlled KSF. The KSF is a lightly armed volunteer force. It has primary responsibility for security tasks that are not appropriate for the police such as emergency response, explosive ordnance disposal, management of hazardous material, fire-fighting and civil protection. The KSF's total strength is mandated to a maximum of 2,500 active personnel and 800 reservists.

Capacity-building

NATO's presence in Kosovo also covers capacity-building efforts with the security organizations in Kosovo through the newly created NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT) that reached full operational capability in January 2017. This new team was created following the merger of the NATO Liaison and Advisory Team (NLAT), that continued to support the KSF beyond the North Atlantic Council's declaration of the KSF's full operational capability in July 2013; and the NATO Advisory Team (NAT), created in 2008 to supervise the establishment of a civilian-led organization of the Kosovo authorities to exercise civilian control over the KSF. The NALT is a team of 41 military and civilian personnel, coming from 14 Allied and partner countries. The Team provides practical assistance and advice to the security organizations in Kosovo from the executive to the force level in

areas such as logistics, procurement and finance, force development and planning, as well as leadership development. In order to fulfill its mission, the Team is currently designed along three lines of development: Strategy & Plans, Operations, and Support.

The Multinational Battle Groups (MNBG)

A Battle Group is a military unit at the level of a battalion, consisting of numerous companies. These companies are highly mobile, flexible and rapidly deployable to potential trouble spots all over Kosovo. There are currently two MNBGs: HQ MNBG East, located at Camp Bondsteel, located near Urosevac; HQ MNBG West, located at Camp Villaggio Italia in Pec. HQ KFOR continues to be located at Camp Film City, Pristina. In addition to the KFOR troops in Kosovo, NATO continues to maintain reserve forces ready to deploy if necessary. KFOR comes under a single chain of command, under the authority of Commander KFOR (COMKFOR). COMKFOR reports to the Commander of Joint Force Command Naples (COM JFCN), Italy. The current COMKFOR is Maj. Gen. Giovanni Fungo. He assumed command of the Kosovo Force on 1 September 2016.

KFOR composition

KFOR was initially composed of some 50,000 men and women from NATO member countries, partner countries and other non-NATO countries under unified command and control. By early 2002, KFOR was reduced to around 39,000 troops. The improved security environment enabled NATO to reduce KFOR troop levels to 26,000 by June 2003, then to 17,500 by the end of 2003. In recent years, the security situation has continued to improve steadily. As a result, on 11-12 June 2009, NATO defense ministers decided to gradually adjust KFOR's force posture towards what is called a deterrent presence. At their informal meeting in Istanbul on 3-4 February 2010, NATO defense ministers were informed by the NATO Military Authorities that KFOR had successfully achieved the so-called Gate 1 in its transition to a deterrent presence, reducing the number of troops on the ground to some 10,200. The move to Gate 2, allowing for a total of approximately 5,000 troops was recommended by the NATO Military Authorities and authorized by the North Atlantic Council on 29 October 2010. Gate 2 was declared on 28 February 2011. In a separate development, the improved security situation on the ground in Kosovo also allowed NATO to continue with the implementation of the so-called unfixing process: the gradual transfer of security for religious and cultural heritage sites under KFOR protection to Kosovo Police responsibility. By the end of 2013, KFOR had unfixing eight properties with Designated Special Status: the Gazimestan Monument, Gracanica Monastery, Zociste Monastery, Budisavci Monastery, Gorioc Monastery, the Archangel site, Devic Monastery, and the Pec Patriarchate. Only one designated site – the Decani Monastery – currently remains under fixed KFOR protection.

NATO's support to the EU-facilitated dialogue

On 19 April 2013, Belgrade and Pristina reached an EU-facilitated First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations; an implementation plan was agreed on 22 May 2013. NATO played an important role in securing the Agreement, and Allies continue to strongly support the accord. In support of the Agreement, Belgrade and Pristina have initiated a programme of high-level talks, hosted by the European Union. This dialogue remains key to solving the political deadlock between the two parties, and has helped improve relations between them. The dialogue has also given fresh momentum to the Euro-Atlantic

integration of the Western Balkans. In June 2013, the European Council decided to open accession negotiations with Belgrade and negotiations with Pristina on a Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA). The SAA agreement was signed on 27 October 2015 and entered into force on 1 April 2016. NATO continues to offer strong political support to the Belgrade-Pristina Agreement, and KFOR stands ready to support its implementation – by ensuring a climate of peace and security – within its current mandate.

	Albania	28		Lithuania	1
	Armenia	40		Moldova	41
	Austria	450		Norway	2
	Bulgaria	23		Poland	252
	Canada	5		Portugal	3
	Croatia	33		Romania	59
	Czech Republic	10		Slovenia	241
	Denmark	35		Sweden	2
	Estonia	2		Switzerland	235
	Finland	20		Turkey	291
	Germany	440		Ukraine	40
	Greece	124		United Kingdom	30
	Hungary	385		United States	685
	Ireland	12			
	Italy	542		Total	4 031

Troop contributing nations. Source: NATO-KFOR

7.2 OSCE missions in Kosovo

The OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission

The OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission was established by the Permanent Council in October 1998 and closed in June 1999. Mission's tasks included: Verifying compliance by all parties in Kosovo with UN Security Council Resolution 1199, and reporting instances of progress and/or non-compliance to the OSCE Permanent Council, the United Nations Security Council and other organizations. Those reports were to be provided to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY); Maintaining close

liaison with FRY, Serbian and, as appropriate, other Kosovo authorities, political parties and other organizations in Kosovo and accredited international and non-government organizations to assist in fulfilling its responsibilities; Supervising elections in Kosovo to ensure their openness and fairness in accordance with regulations and procedures agreed; and Reporting and making recommendations to the OSCE Permanent Council, the UN

Security Council and other organizations on areas covered by UN Security Council Resolution 1199.

The OSCE Mission

The current OSCE Mission in Kosovo works to improve the protection of human and community rights, good governance and public safety standards in Kosovo. The Mission, established in 1999, is the second largest OSCE field operation. It is the only civilian international organization present all over Kosovo that closely monitors political, institutional and security developments and offers systemic remedies where needed. One of the Mission's main objectives is to further develop the democratic and multiethnic society in Kosovo where the rights of all people are respected. In this regard, the Mission offers expertise and guidance to the institutions in Kosovo and reaches out to communities, in keeping with the Mission's mandate. The Mission has been involved in establishing a number of key institutions, including the Assembly of Kosovo, the Ombudsperson Institution, the Central Election Commission, the Office of the Language Commissioner, municipal community protection bodies, among many others. The Mission maintains close working relations with all communities and local institutions, and is a strong advocate for the local communities in promoting and protecting their rights. Presence The Mission's field presence consists of five regional centres/offices – Gjilan/ Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/Priština and Prizren – as well as over 30 field teams in municipalities across Kosovo. Mandate The Mission's mandate, outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 305 of 1 July 1999, gives the Mission a "leading role in matters relating to institution- and democracy building and human rights." The OSCE Mission in Kosovo focuses on three main areas: human and community rights, democratization and public safety. The Mission closely works with other OSCE field presences in South-East Europe to improve regional co-operation, dialogue and reconciliation. The main objectives of the mission refer to areas such as:

- Countering terrorism
- Cyber/ICT Security
- Elections
- Gender equality
- Good governance
- Human rights
- Media freedom and development
- Policing
- Rule of law
- Tolerance and non-discrimination
- Youth

The Mission's activities are guided by four principles: mainstreaming multi-ethnicity, tolerance and reconciliation; promoting transparency and accountability to counter discrimination; sustainability; and gender mainstreaming. The Mission has three programmatic departments: Human Rights and Communities, Democratization, and Security and Public Safety. Human rights protection Protecting and promoting human and

community rights in Kosovo are among the Mission's key objectives. In terms of the rights of communities, the Mission focuses on issues such as their participation in decision-making, security, language rights, returns and other displacement problems, the protection of cultural and religious heritage, and property rights. The Mission is a key international actor in Kosovo with regards to the human rights-focused monitoring of the justice sector. Regular thematic reports offer concrete recommendations and follow-up action on measures to improve the justice system. These reports are also used by the OSCE-established Kosovo Judicial Institute to further develop training courses for judges and prosecutors. As a member of the Implementation Monitoring Council, a mechanism established to preserve and protect cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo, the Mission works with partners to better protect Special Protective Zones around cultural and religious heritage sites. The Mission also promotes tolerance by organizing inter-faith dialogue forums involving youth and representatives of all religious communities and institutions. The OSCE Mission works also to strengthen democratic, transparent and accountable institutions in Kosovo. The Mission is currently assisting the Assembly of Kosovo in enhancing its relationship with the government to improve legislative planning and to raise the executive's accountability. The Mission also supported the Assembly to strengthen its relations with civil society. At the local level, the Mission monitors and supports the work of local institutions in select policy areas related to inclusiveness, transparency and accountability with the aim of improving the services they offer to all communities. Enhancing the standards for a free and professional media sector in Kosovo is also among the Mission's objectives. The Mission, in compliance with international best practices, works to find a long-term independent financing solution for the RTK broadcaster. It also trains journalists - including those from northern municipalities - on conflict-sensitive reporting, promotes regional exchange programmes for journalists, and works with the media to strengthen the independence of reporting and the safety of journalists. The Mission continues to support women's rights groups with a focus on ending gender-based violence, and is also active in working with the youth, including through apprenticeship programmes with government institutions.

As for public safety, the Mission helps ministries and law enforcement agencies to revise strategies and action plans to counter organized crime, terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime and narcotics; as well as the strategies on intelligence-led policing, community policing and safety. To foster dialogue between communities and police, the Mission works to expand police-public partnerships. It has established a number of community safety forums to address local safety and security issues and is now working to establish new ones in northern Kosovo. The Mission provides support in increasing the share of under-represented communities and women in police ranks and managerial positions through awareness raising and advocacy. It also monitors police compliance with human rights standards and legislation on the use of official languages, as well as promoting appropriate police responses to cases of hate crime.

8. Other Practical Info

8.1 Local Customs Cultural Awareness

Kosovo is no easy or simple place, having been through a bloody civil war and a difficult post-conflict stabilization process. Having been traditionally the poorest region of the ex-Yugoslavia, the economic situation stays critic, with a very high rate of poverty and unemployment, and an inadequate welfare and healthcare system. All these factors have made Kosovars accustomed to harsh living conditions, to changing rules and situations, and produced a rather fatalistic approach towards life. At the same time, Kosovars are extremely generous and hospitality is a sacred value. Most Kosovar Albanians are Sunni Muslims, as well as Bosniaics, Gorans, Turks and some Roma communities. The Serb communities are Serb-Orthodox.

Nevertheless, the Kosovar society is secular and religion is considered a personal matter. Most people dress in Western clothing, wearing traditional clothing for special occasions. Occasion such as entering mosques or conducting business in the country requires more formal and conservative dress, while wandering around the country has few rules since the majority of people are quite liberal Muslims.

Social Etiquette

a) Meeting Etiquette

The typical greeting is a warm, firm handshake, maintaining direct eye contact, and repeating your name. Greeting In rural areas, men should be particularly careful about addressing or touching local women, who don't normally, for example, shake hands with strangers.

Albanian names usually consists of a given name (Albanian: emri); the given name of the individual's father (Albanian: atësia), which is seldom included except in official documents; and a (most commonly patrilineal) family name or surname (Albanian: mbiemri). They are invariably given in the Western name order, or given name followed by family name. Serbian names consist of a given name, usually single, followed by a patronymic a version of the father's first name formed by adding "-vich" or "-ovich" for a male and "-avna", "-ovna", or "-ivna" for a female. The son of Ivan would have a patronymic such as Ivanovich while the daughter's patronymic would be Ivanovna. Last name, which is the family or surname. In formal situations, people use all three names; friends and close acquaintances may refer to each other by their first name and patronymic. In Albanian, the common greetings are "Pershendetje" or the most informal "ckemi" (equivalent to "hi"). In Serbian it is Здраво (Zdravo).

b) Gift Giving Etiquette

Gift-giving isn't common, but it depends on how closeness to the recipient. If you know they will present a gift, prepare something moderate and appropriate in return. Avoid expensive gifts and focus on the meaning of the gift. Gifts characteristic of their country (always keeping in mind the ethnic disagreements between Albanians and Serbs and corresponding countries) is appreciated. To give flowers is a custom not generally appreciated in Kosovo. Gifts must be packed carefully and must not be opened in front of everyone in the crowd. In any case, you must act with extreme delicacy and discretion, especially if the gifts are for women.

c) Dining Etiquette

Traditional Kosovar society, for both Albanians and Serbs, has an important patriarchal tradition, with extended family members, so dinners are often organized with many people.

Guests are always very warmly received, and are always offered beverages and food, which is good manners to accept. It is very rude indeed not to offer something to your guests or not to share food and beverages. Food has a very high social relevance in Balkan societies. It is good manners to eat and drink plentifully of whatever is given and whenever it is given. Guests are served first, from the eldest one to the youngest, this rule is generally applied, giving always priority and respect to the eldest.

In Kosovar houses is often served raki (or rakija), an alcoholic beverage, accompanied by toasts. The most common are: in Albanian "gëzuar", in Serbian is "здравље" (zdravlje).

Business Etiquette and Protocol

a) Communication Style

It is crucial to distinguish who the interlocutor is, given the ethnic fragmentation and the complex social context. It is highly

inadequate to speak Serbian to an Albanian or speak in Albanian to a Serb, so when the situation is unclear, it would be a better option to choose a neutral language. "Thank you" in Albanian is "faleminderit". In Serbian it is "Хвала" (Hvala).

Family support networks are very strong and most business connections are made through these networks. It is well regarded to talk about your family and relatives, about family bonds and values, friendship, but not about the relationships with the opposite gender, which is considered to be very intimate and private. But most important, given the extremely sensitive political and social situation in Kosovo, avoid sensitive conversation topics, such as politics, finances, and business unless initiated by your local counterpart. Also try to avoid being loud, rude, or showing off wealth. Kosovars see men and women as equals, but men tend to do the heavy work. Women never use swearwords, and neither men do ever use a foul language in presence of women. Kosovar girls are educated as very respectful and decent, reputation is very important, so dating a Kosovar girl must necessarily imply serious and official intentions, otherwise this will discredit the girl and her family. At a more general level, words must be accurately weighed, Kosovars give great attentions to what and how is being said. An offense might have heavy consequences.

b) Business Meetings

Business meetings occur at any time of the business day, which usually starts at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Business meetings can be formal or informal. English is generally understood by business professionals in most communities in Kosovo, but not always by the general public. Depending on one's audience, saying a few words in Albanian or Serbian or knowing a few greetings or phrases in other local languages, such as Turkish, will impress locals who nearly universally admire the United States. Most Kosovo Albanians over the age of 35 speak Serbian; however, unless you know your interlocutors well, it is preferable to use English or Albanian. Kosovo Serbs who operate businesses are generally fluent in English, but rarely in Albanian. Dress at meetings should be business attire, but a formal suit is not expected. It is preferable to print business cards with one side in English and the other side in Albanian and/or Serbian. It is advisable, but not necessary, to have a temporary local or international mobile phone, which can be obtained locally. While not expected, giving gifts depends on the closeness of the relationship. If it is known that your local contact will provide you with a gift, be prepared to offer one in exchange. Emphasis is not placed on the value of the item, but on the thought.

8.2 Medical Travel Recommendations for Kosovo

The health system in Kosovo is poorly funded. Hospitals lack specialist equipment and there is a widespread shortage of medicines and other essentials. Many doctors and nurses lack training in modern techniques and practices. A small payment in cash (currently €4) is required for treatment but you should make sure you have adequate travel health insurance and accessible funds to cover the cost of any medical treatment abroad and repatriation. If you are involved in an accident or taken ill, it is likely that you will be taken to a state hospital unless you can show that you have comprehensive medical insurance cover. If you need emergency medical assistance during your trip, dial 112 and ask for an ambulance. You should contact your insurance/medical assistance company promptly if you are referred to a medical facility for treatment. Kosovo regional hospitals are located in: Prizren, Peja, Gjakova, Ferizaj, Gjilan, Mitrovica and Vushtrri. In Pristina there is the American Hospital, a private clinic funded by the US Government along with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Recommended Vaccinations:

- Measles-mumps-rubella (MMR);

- Diphtheria;
- Pertussis;
- Tetanus;
- Polio;
- Hepatitis A;
- Rabies.

Diarrhoea

Diseases from food and water are the leading cause of illness in travellers. Prevention consists mainly in: “Boil it, wash it, peel it, cook it... or forget it”. Follow these tips for safe eating and drinking:

- wash your hands often with soap and water, especially before eating. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand gel (with at least 60% alcohol);
- drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes;
- make sure food is fully cooked; avoid eating fruits and vegetables unless they have been peeled or cooked.

Most episodes are self-limiting, clear up within 48 to 72 hours and do not require treatment with antibiotics. The primary goal of treating any form of diarrhoea (viral, bacterial, parasitic or non-infectious) is preventing dehydration or appropriately re-hydrating persons presenting with dehydration.

In particular:

- oral re-hydration solutions (ORS) or similar solutions should be used for re-hydration and absorbed in small, frequent volumes;
- an age-appropriate unrestricted diet is recommended as soon as dehydration is corrected;
- no routine laboratory tests or medications are recommended;
- anti-motility agents such as Loperamid should be considered only for adult patients who do not have a fever or bloody diarrhoea; anti-motility agents may reduce diarrhea output and cramps, but do not accelerate cure.

Gas Heater

You should never go to sleep with your gas heater switched on. The pressure may drop resulting in the flame extinguishing. As a result gas will then leak from the heater. Carbon monoxide poisoning can also be a problem with old appliances.

Road Traffic Accidents

Remember to:

1. wear your safety belt;
2. follow the local customs and laws regarding pedestrian safety and vehicle speed;
3. obey the rules of the road;
4. use helmets on bicycles and motorbikes;
5. avoid boarding an overloaded bus or mini-bus;
6. if not familiar with driving in Kosovo, hire a trustworthy local driver;
7. do not drink and drive (Kosovo is predominantly a Muslim country, zero tolerance on drinking and driving)

8.3 Other Travel Info

Time

Time zone: Central European Time (UTC+1). Summer (DST): Central European Summer Time (UTC+2)

Money

The official currency of Kosovo is the euro. The Serbian Dinar is sometimes accepted in Serb-majority areas. Most transactions are in cash. Credit cards are more widely accepted and there are some ATMs in Pristina and other major cities. Outside of cities you should make sure you have sufficient cash in local currency.

Climate

Kosovo has a largely Continental climate, although Pristina is considered an Oceanic climate. Generally, summers are long and dry, and winters are mild and rainy, with occasional heavy snowfall in the mountains. It can get surprisingly hot in summer, between May and August, with temperatures sometimes reaching as high as 90°F (32°C). The warmest month is July, with an average high temperature of 79°F (26°C). Winters are cold and snowfall is common. The coldest month is January, with an average low temperature of 23°F (-5°C). Rainfall is abundant, particularly in the short spring and autumn, with October being the wettest month, and August the driest. Visitors should note that the climate does vary according to region and geographical features. Kosovo is a year-round destination, but the summer months, between May and August, are the peak tourism season and the optimum time to visit. At this time the popular cities like Pristina can get crowded. November to April is the least popular period for travel to Kosovo, with the exception of the ski season in January and February, which sees visitors flock to the slopes, as this is the best time to ski in Kosovo. Spring and autumn can also be very pleasant but it can be rainy.

8.4 Radio Transmissions

The radio is not a secure means of communication as it can be listened to by practically anyone. It is useful to establish a set of simple code words, which should be known by everyone in the network. In no case should military information be transmitted.

Basic Rules

Discipline: listen before transmitting. Brevity: be brief and to the point. Rhythm: use short complete phrases that make sense. Speed: not too fast, not too slow. Volume: don't shout. Preparation: know what you are going to say before transmitting.

Prior to transmission

- a. Check the power source and cables to ensure there is a power supply.
- b. Check the antenna and cables ensuring a tight and correct connection to the radio set.
- c. Connect the audio accessories and check the functioning of switches.

Transmitting

- a. Make your message brief but precise.
- b. Break the message into sensible passages with pauses between.
- c. Make sure no-one else is transmitting at the same time.
- d. When transmitting maintain a high standard of articulation, normal rhythm and moderate volume. Do not shout. Hold the microphone close to your mouth.
- e. Avoid excessive calling and unofficial voice procedure.

Four Golden Rules

Clarity; Brevity; Security; Simplicity.

Respect these rules; your radios may be the only link to the outside world. Don't interfere with radios unless you are a trained technician. Don't use the radio like a telephone, keep transmissions short. Organize your thinking and your message before transmitting. Security matters are best dealt with by using simple code words; likewise when dealing with sensitive issues.

Procedure Words

A proword is a word or phrase, which has been given a special meaning in order to speed up the handling of messages. The only authorised prowords are listed below:

Prowords explanation:

BREAK

I now indicate a separation of the text from other portions of the message.

CORRECT

You are correct, or what you have transmitted is correct.

CORRECTION

I have made an error in this transmission. I will continue from the last correct word.

I SAY AGAIN

I am repeating my transmission again.

MESSAGE

A message follows: prepare to copy or record it.

MORE TO FOLLOW

The transmitting station has additional traffic for the receiving station.

OUT

This is the end of my transmission to you and no answer is required.

OVER

This is the end of my transmission to you and a response is expected. Go ahead transmit.

READ BACK

Repeat this entire transmission back to me exactly as received.

ROGER

I have received your last transmission satisfactorily.

SPEAK SLOWER

You are speaking too fast. Please speak slower.

STAND-BY

Do not transmit until contacted: I need extra time.

THIS IS

Give call sign, i.e. "Delta one".

WAIT

I must pause for a few seconds, please wait.

WAIT OUT

I must pause longer than a few seconds, I will return.

WILCO

I have received your signal, understand it, and will comply (do not use roger and wilco together).

WRONG

Your last transmission was incorrect the correct version was ...

Phonetics

The international phonetic alphabet listed below shall be used. Numerals shall be transmitted digit by digit except round figures such as hundreds and thousands.

Examples:

Message examples:

To give you confidence, make sure you practise using the radio before you find yourself in urgent need of using it. An example of the kind of language you must learn to use is shown right. It is an example of a radio check:

Call

Five - Two, Five - Two, this is Hotel – Three - Niner, Hotel – Three - Niner. Radio check. Over.

Reply

Hotel – Three - Niner, from Five - Two. I read you loud and clear. Over.

Call

Five - Two from Hotel – Three - Niner. Loud and clear. Over.

Reply

From Five-Two. Roger. Out.

What to do in an emergency

Call for help as follows:

emergency. emergency. emergency.

Five-two five-two. this is hotel-three-niner, hotel-three-niner. emergency. do you copy? over. (Note: emergency is repeated three times).

Wait for response and then proceed. For a lesser degree of urgency, use the word “security” instead of “emergency”. Any station hearing an “emergency” or “security” call, should immediately stop transmitting and listen out. If you need to interrupt another radio conversation wait for a pause (immediately after you hear “over”); call: break. break. this is hotel-three-niner, hotel-three-niner. I have an emergency. please stand by.

Pause transmission and listen to ensure the other communication has ceased, then proceed with emergency call.

12 wun too;

44 fo-wer fo-wer;

90 niner zero;

136 wun three six;

500 fi-yiv hundred;

7000 seven thousand;

16000 wun six thousand;

1278 wun too seven ate;

19A wun niner alfa

<i>CHARACTER</i>	<i>MORSE CODE</i>	<i>TELEPHONY</i>	<i>PHONIC (PRONUNCIATION)</i>
A	• —	Alfa	(AL-FAH)
B	— ••••	Bravo	(BRAH-VOH)
C	— • — •	Charlie	(CHAR-LEE) or (SHAR-LEE)
D	— •••	Delta	(DELL-TAH)
E	•	Echo	(ECK-OH)
F	•• — •	Foxtrot	(FOKS-TROT)
G	— — •	Golf	(GOLF)
H	•••••	Hotel	(HOH-TEL)
I	••	India	(IN-DEE-AH)
J	• — — —	Juliett	(JEW-LEE-ETT)
K	— • —	Kilo	(KEY-LOH)
L	• — ••	Lima	(LEE-MAH)
M	— —	Mike	(MIKE)
N	— •	November	(NO-VEM-BER)
O	— — —	Oscar	(OSS-CAH)
P	• — — •	Papa	(PAH-PAH)
Q	— — • —	Quebec	(KEH-BECK)
R	• — •	Romeo	(ROW-ME-OH)
S	••••	Sierra	(SEE-AIR-RAH)
T	—	Tango	(TANG-GO)
U	•• —	Uniform	(YOU-NEE-FORM) or (OO-NEE-FORM)
V	••• —	Victor	(VIK-TAH)
W	• — —	Whiskey	(WISS-KEY)
X	— •• —	Xray	(ECKS-RAY)
Y	— • — —	Yankee	(YANG-KEY)
Z	— — ••	Zulu	(ZOO-LOO)
1	• — — — —	One	(WUN)
2	•• — — —	Two	(TOO)
3	••• — —	Three	(TREE)
4	•••• —	Four	(FOW-ER)
5	•••••	Five	(FIFE)
6	— •••••	Six	(SIX)
7	— — ••••	Seven	(SEV-EN)
8	— — — ••	Eight	(AIT)
9	— — — — •	Nine	(NIN-ER)
0	— — — — —	Zero	(ZEE-RO)

9. Useful contacts

9. Useful contacts

Emergencies

In case of emergency in Kosovo call the following emergency numbers:

Unified emergency number - 112

Fire – 193

Police – 192

Ambulance – 194

Kosovo police and emergency services are still generally below Western European and U.S. standards in terms of training, responsiveness, and effectiveness. The younger local security forces officers generally do speak English. In any case, on the territory there are officers belonging to international security forces or international cooperation agencies.

Embassies

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Embassy of the Czech Republic in Kosovo

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Ambassador

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Website: www.finlandkosovo.org

Embassy of the Republic of Bulgaria in Kosovo

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<https://www.swedenabroad.se/en/embassies/kosovo-pristina/>

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The Police

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The Judiciary

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- Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org>

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- UNMIK, <https://unmik.unmissions.org/>

The EU - Kosovo

A priority partner

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- EU Commission, <https://ec.europa.eu>
- EEAS, <https://eeas.europa.eu/>
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The European commitment to the reconstruction of Kosovo

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EULEX (European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo)

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OSCE missions in Kosovo

- OSCE, <http://www.osce.org/>

Travel Advice & Other Practical Info

- Government of the United Kingdom, <https://www.gov.uk/>
- Kintessential, <http://www.kintessential.co.uk/>

Useful contacts

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kosovo, <http://www.mfa-ks.net/>

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14 MAY 1999S/RES/1239
This resolution called for access for humanitarian relief operations to aid refugees and IDPs.

24 OCTOBER 1998S/RES/1203
This resolution demanded that Yugoslavia cooperate fully with the OSCE Verification Mission in Kosovo and the NATO Air Verification Mission over Kosovo

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This was letter by Serbia regarding formation of Armed Forces of Kosovo.

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This was from Serbia requesting a UN investigation into the 27 September incident.

14 SEPTEMBER 2011 S/2011/575
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9 SEPTEMBER 2010 A/64/PV.120
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Annex

UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

The Security Council,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recalling its resolutions 1160 (1998) of 31 March 1998, 1199 (1998) of 23 September 1998, 1203 (1998) of 24 October 1998 and 1239 (1999) of 14 May 1999, Regretting that there has not been full compliance with the requirements of these resolutions,

Determined to resolve the grave humanitarian situation in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and to provide for the safe and free return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes,

Condemning all acts of violence against the Kosovo population as well as all terrorist acts by any party,

Recalling the statement made by the Secretary-General on 9 April 1999, expressing concern at the humanitarian tragedy taking place in Kosovo,

Reaffirming the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in safety,

Recalling the jurisdiction and the mandate of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia,

Welcoming the general principles on a political solution to the Kosovo crisis adopted on 6 May 1999 (S/1999/516, annex 1 to this resolution) and welcoming also the acceptance by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of the principles set forth in points 1 to 9 of the paper presented in Belgrade on 2 June 1999 (S/1999/649, annex 2 to this resolution), and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's agreement to that paper,

Reaffirming the commitment of all Member States to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the other States of the region, as set out in the Helsinki Final Act and annex 2,

Reaffirming the call in previous resolutions for substantial autonomy and meaningful self-administration for Kosovo, Determining that the situation in the region continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

Determined to ensure the safety and security of international personnel and the implementation by all concerned of their responsibilities under the present resolution, and acting for these purposes under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. Decides that a political solution to the Kosovo crisis shall be based on the general principles in annex 1 and as further elaborated in the principles and other required elements in annex 2;

2. Welcomes the acceptance by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of the principles and other required elements referred to in paragraph 1 above, and demands the full cooperation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in their rapid implementation;

3. Demands in particular that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia put an immediate and verifiable end to violence and repression in Kosovo, and begin and complete verifiable phased withdrawal from Kosovo of all military, police and paramilitary forces according to a rapid timetable, with which the deployment of the international security presence in Kosovo will be synchronized;

4. Confirms that after the withdrawal an agreed number of Yugoslav and Serb military and police personnel will be permitted to return to Kosovo to perform the functions in accordance with annex 2;

5. Decides on the deployment in Kosovo, under United Nations auspices, of international civil and security presences, with appropriate equipment and personnel as required, and welcomes the agreement of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to such presences;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint, in consultation with the Security Council, a Special Representative to control the implementation of the international civil presence, and further requests the Secretary-General to instruct his Special Representative to coordinate closely with the international security presence to ensure that both presences operate towards the same goals and in a mutually supportive manner;

7. Authorizes Member States and relevant international organizations to establish the international security presence in Kosovo as set out in point 4 of annex 2 with all necessary means to fulfill its responsibilities under paragraph 9 below;

8. Affirms the need for the rapid early deployment of effective international civil and security presences to Kosovo, and demands that the parties cooperate fully in their deployment;

9. Decides that the responsibilities of the international security presence to be deployed and acting in Kosovo will include:

- (a) Detering renewed hostilities, maintaining and where necessary enforcing a ceasefire, and ensuring the withdrawal and preventing the return into Kosovo of Federal and Republic military, police and paramilitary forces, except as provided in point 6 of annex 2;
- (b) Demilitarizing the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and other armed Kosovo Albanian groups as required in paragraph 15 below;
- (c) Establishing a secure environment in which refugees and displaced persons can return home in safety, the international civil presence can operate, a transitional administration can be established, and humanitarian aid can be delivered;
- (d) Ensuring public safety and order until the international civil presence can take responsibility for this task;
- (e) Supervising demining until the international civil presence can, as appropriate, take over responsibility for this task;
- (f) Supporting, as appropriate, and coordinating closely with the work of the international civil presence;
- (g) Conducting border monitoring duties as required;
- (h) Ensuring the protection and freedom of movement of itself, the international civil presence, and other international organizations;
- (i) Maintaining civil law and order, including establishing local police forces and meanwhile through the deployment of international police personnel to serve in Kosovo;
- (j) Protecting and promoting human rights

10. Authorizes the Secretary-General, with the assistance of relevant international organizations, to establish an international civil presence in Kosovo in order to provide an interim administration for Kosovo under which the people of Kosovo can enjoy substantial autonomy within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and which will provide transitional administration while establishing and overseeing the development of provisional democratic self-governing institutions to ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants of Kosovo;

11. Decides that the main responsibilities of the international civil presence will include:

- (a) Promoting the establishment, pending a final settlement, of substantial autonomy and self-government in Kosovo, taking full account of annex 2 and of the Rambouillet accords (S/1999/648);
- (b) Performing basic civilian administrative functions where and as long as required;
- (c) Organizing and overseeing the development of provisional institutions for democratic and autonomous self-government pending a political settlement, including the holding of elections;
- (d) Transferring, as these institutions are established, its administrative responsibilities while overseeing and supporting the consolidation of Kosovo's local provisional institutions and other peacebuilding activities;
- (e) Facilitating a political process designed to determine Kosovo's future status, taking into account the Rambouillet accords (S/1999/648);
- (f) In a final stage, overseeing the transfer of authority from Kosovo's provisional institutions to institutions established under a political settlement;
- (g) Supporting the reconstruction of key infrastructure and other economic reconstruction;
- (h) Supporting, in coordination with international humanitarian organizations, humanitarian and disaster relief aid;
- (i) Maintaining civil law and order, including establishing local police forces and meanwhile through the deployment of international police personnel to serve in Kosovo;
- (j) Protecting and promoting human rights;
- (k) Assuring the safe and unimpeded return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes in Kosovo;

12. Emphasizes the need for coordinated humanitarian relief operations, and for the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to allow unimpeded access to Kosovo by humanitarian aid organizations and to cooperate with such organizations so as to ensure the fast and effective delivery of international aid;

13. Encourages all Member States and international organizations to contribute to economic and social reconstruction as well as to the safe return of refugees and displaced persons, and emphasizes in this context the importance of convening an international donors' conference, particularly for the purposes set out in paragraph 11 (g) above, at the earliest possible date;

14. Demands full cooperation by all concerned, including the international security presence, with the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia;

15. Demands that the KLA and other armed Kosovo Albanian groups end immediately all offensive actions and comply with the requirements for demilitarization as laid down by the head of the international security presence in consultation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

16. Decides that the prohibitions imposed by paragraph 8 of resolution 1160 (1998) shall not apply to arms and related matériel for the use of the international civil and security presences;

17. Welcomes the work in hand in the European Union and other international organizations to develop a comprehensive approach to the economic development and stabilization of the region affected by the Kosovo crisis, including the implementation of a Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe with broad international participation in order to further the promotion of democracy, economic prosperity, stability and regional cooperation;

18. Demands that all States in the region cooperate fully in the implementation of all aspects of this resolution;

19. Decides that the international civil and security presences are established for an initial period of 12 months, to continue thereafter unless the Security Council decides otherwise;

20. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Council at regular intervals on the implementation of this resolution, including reports from the leaderships of the international civil and security presences, the first reports to be submitted within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution;

21. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.

Annex 1

Statement by the Chairman on the conclusion of the meeting of the G-8 Foreign Ministers held at the Petersberg Centre on 6 May 1999

The G-8 Foreign Ministers adopted the following general principles on the political solution to the Kosovo crisis:

- Immediate and verifiable end of violence and repression in Kosovo;
- Withdrawal from Kosovo of military, police and paramilitary forces;
- Deployment in Kosovo of effective international civil and security presences, endorsed and adopted by the United Nations, capable of guaranteeing the achievement of the common objectives;
- Establishment of an interim administration for Kosovo to be decided by the Security Council of the United Nations to ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants in Kosovo;
- The safe and free return of all refugees and displaced persons and unimpeded access to Kosovo by humanitarian aid organizations;
- A political process towards the establishment of an interim political framework agreement providing for a substantial self-government for Kosovo, taking full account of the Rambouillet accords and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the other countries of the region, and the demilitarization of the KLA;
- Comprehensive approach to the economic development and stabilization of the crisis region.

Annex 2

Agreement should be reached on the following principles to move towards a resolution of the Kosovo crisis:

1. An immediate and verifiable end of violence and repression in Kosovo.

2. Verifiable withdrawal from Kosovo of all military, police and paramilitary forces according to a rapid timetable.
3. Deployment in Kosovo under United Nations auspices of effective international civil and security presences, acting as may be decided under Chapter VII of the Charter, capable of guaranteeing the achievement of common objectives.
4. The international security presence with substantial North Atlantic Treaty Organization participation must be deployed under unified command and control and authorized to establish a safe environment for all people in Kosovo and to facilitate the safe return to their homes of all displaced persons and refugees.
5. Establishment of an interim administration for Kosovo as a part of the international civil presence under which the people of Kosovo can enjoy substantial autonomy within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, to be decided by the Security Council of the United Nations. The interim administration to provide transitional administration while establishing and overseeing the development of provisional democratic self-governing institutions to ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants in Kosovo.
6. After withdrawal, an agreed number of Yugoslav and Serbian personnel will be permitted to return to perform the following functions: - Liaison with the international civil mission and the international security presence; - Marking/clearing minefields; - Maintaining a presence at Serb patrimonial sites; - Maintaining a presence at key border crossings.
7. Safe and free return of all refugees and displaced persons under the supervision of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and unimpeded access to Kosovo by humanitarian aid organizations.
8. A political process towards the establishment of an interim political framework agreement providing for substantial self-government for Kosovo, taking full account of the Rambouillet accords and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the other countries of the region, and the demilitarization of UCK. Negotiations between the parties for a settlement should not delay or disrupt the establishment of democratic self-governing institutions.
9. A comprehensive approach to the economic development and stabilization of the crisis region. This will include the implementation of a stability pact for South-Eastern Europe with broad international participation in order to further promotion of democracy, economic prosperity, stability and regional cooperation.
10. Suspension of military activity will require acceptance of the principles set forth above in addition to agreement to other, previously identified, required elements, which are specified in the footnote below.¹ A military-technical agreement will then be rapidly concluded that would, among other things, specify additional modalities, including the roles and functions of Yugoslav/Serb personnel in Kosovo:

Withdrawal

- Procedures for withdrawals, including the phased, detailed schedule and delineation of a buffer area in Serbia beyond which forces will be withdrawn;

Returning personnel

- Equipment associated with returning personnel;
- Terms of reference for their functional responsibilities;
- Timetable for their return;
- Delineation of their geographical areas of operation;
- Rules governing their relationship to the international security presence and the international civil mission.

Notes

1 Other required elements:

- A rapid and precise timetable for withdrawals, meaning, e.g., seven days to complete withdrawal and air defence weapons withdrawn outside a 25 kilometre mutual safety zone within 48 hours;
- Return of personnel for the four functions specified above will be under the supervision of the international security presence and will be limited to a small agreed number (hundreds, not thousands);
- Suspension of military activity will occur after the beginning of verifiable withdrawals; - The discussion and achievement of a military-technical agreement shall not extend the previously determined time for completion of withdrawals.