

Klinë/Klina

March 2009

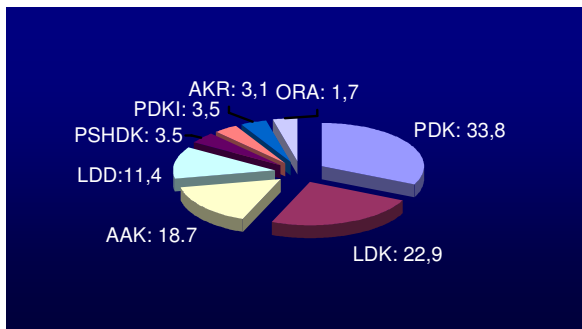
1. Area and population

- Klinë/Klina municipality is located in the west of Kosovo, on the edge of Dukagjini valley and the Drenica region, and has an area of 308 km² covering 54 villages and Klinë/Klina town. The main road from Prishtinë/Priština to Pejë/Peć runs through the municipality while regional roads to Gjakovë/Djakovica, Istog/Istok and Skenderaj/Srbica provide an excellent transportation and communication network. In addition, Klinë/Klina has good railway connections. The Drini i Bardhë/Beli Drim River (the major river in Kosovo) runs from north to south of the municipality. Four other rivers pass through the municipality one of them being Mirusha river that is well known for its lakes and waterfalls (12km south from the town).
- The exact number of people living in Klinë/Klina municipality is not known due to a large displacement of population in 1999 conflict. The municipal directorate of general administration estimates the population to be at 55,000. Non-majority communities in Klinë/Klina Municipality include Kosovo Serbs, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (around 2,000 persons).
- The Kosovo Serb community consisted of 6000 - 7000 persons before the 1999 conflict, most of whom are yet to return to the municipality. In the area of returns, Klinë/Klina became the first municipality to undertake concrete steps to create the conditions and environment for return of displaced Kosovo Serbs. More than 219 rural houses have been reconstructed to accommodate returnees, while in town, 89 houses and apartments have been reconstructed/refurbished to host Kosovo Serb returnees. A realistic number of returnees to the municipality is 350 – 400, as many of the almost 900 registered returnees spend all or a significant amount of their time outside of Kosovo. Despite the municipality's efforts to facilitate return, some of returnees face long proceedings with the Kosovo Property Agency and Kosovo courts trying to reconstitute their property that is illegally occupied,

2. Governing structures

• Legislative

The total number of municipal assembly seats is 31. In November 2007 municipal elections, PDK won the position of the mayor, and the majority in the municipal assembly.



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
LDD – Democratic League of Dardania
PSHDK - Albanian Christian-Democratic Party of Kosovo
PDKI – Kosovo Democratic Christian Party for Integration
AKR – Alliance New Kosovo
ORA – Reformist Party ORA

• Executive

The Executive is composed of a mayor, a deputy mayor and eight directors - six from PDK, and two from LDD. There is also a municipal community office, currently headed by a Kosovo Serb. The mayor is Mr. Sokol Bashota (PDK) while Mr. Ramiz Rrusta, also from PDK, was appointed as deputy mayor. There are 126 civil servants and nine political staff in the municipality.

• Judiciary

Since January 2000 six Kosovo Albanian judges were appointed to Klinë/Klina municipality. Three are working in the municipal court and three in the minor offences court. The public prosecutor's office in Pejë/Peć covers also Klinë/Klina municipality as there is no prosecutor office in Klinë/Klina.

3. Political overview

In the municipal elections of 2007, LDK lost the majority in the municipal assembly, while PDK won the elections, and AAK increased their support. The results were as follows: PDK 33% (10 seats), LDK 23% (7 seats), AAK 19% (6 seats), LDD 11.4% (4 seats) PSHDK 3% (1 seat), PDKI 3% (1 seat), AKR 3% (1 seat), ORA 1.6% (1 seat). PDK leading the municipality is in a coalition with LDD, AKR and ORA. Mr. Zemun Zeqa of the LDD has been appointed chairperson of the municipal assembly.

4. Economy

Over 1,300 businesses, employing some 4,100 workers, are registered in Klinë/Klina. Farming is the main occupation outside the town. Many small shops in the town have officially registered with the Kosovo ministry of trade and industry. Some 300 persons are working in industrial activities in the municipality. Six out of eight socially owned enterprises have been privatized so far, but are operating with limited capacities. Three biggest private companies in the municipality employ some 200 workers.

5. Public services

• Health

The main family health centre in Klinë/Klina serves as a primary health care unit for the local population and provides specialized services in pediatrics, psychiatry, and dental care, in addition to hosting a maternity centre. There are nine health clinics (*ambulantas*) in the municipality, which offer basic medical support to the population. Water, sanitation, and power supply remain problematic in all clinics. The Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian population in the municipality have equal access to these services, while Kosovo Serb returnees prefer to use the services provided by Serbia's health care system in Osojane/Osojan village in Istok/Istog municipality. The municipal health sector employs 138 persons.

• Education

Klinë/Klina municipality has three kindergartens, fifteen primary schools, and two high schools, which includes a regular gymnasium and a technical school. The schools are located in 26 buildings, which were more or less destroyed during the 1999 conflict. Approximately 8,700 students attend kindergarten and primary schools. The two secondary schools have 1,841 students. 334 children from the Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are successfully placed in Klinë/Klina schools, whereas seven Kosovo Serb returnee children attend the school facilities functioning as part of Serbia's education system in the villages of Biča/Binxhë and Videjë/Vidanje. A total of 645 persons are employed by the municipality in the education sector.

6. Map of the municipality

Klinë / Klina

