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THE REPUBLIC OF
KOSOVO'S 2013
LOCAL ELECTIONS
HANDBOOK

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POLITICS

THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO'S 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS HANDBOOK

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Introduction to the 2013 Local Elections

INTRODUCTION TO THE 2013 LOCAL ELECTIONS

The local elections on 3rd of November 2013 have a special importance for Kosovo. For the first time the elections will be organized in Kosovo in the whole territory of the country and Serbian political entities, also in the north, will take part.

During the last mandate of the municipalities in Kosovo, the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) held the majority of mayors (17) in Kosovo. The second ranked was the Democrat League of Kosovo (LDK) with 8 mayors around the country followed by the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK) with 6 municipalities. The remaining municipalities were governed by 4 Serbian mayors, one Turkish mayor and an independent Albanian mayor in the city of Hani I Elezit. The municipalities in northern Kosovo had no mayors and local assembly elected since the elections in 2009, and the parallel structures financed by Belgrade were not recognized by Kosovo and the international community.

The elections are held in a time when the main political parties have failed to achieve a comprehensive election reform, although some aspects like the two-week election campaign or that Kosovo remains a single electoral district have been agreed, the election reform is likely to be continued after the local elections so that it can undergo parliamentary procedure before the parliamentary elections of 2014.

On 19th April 2013, a historic agreement was reached between the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, and the Prime Minister of Serbia, Ivica Dačić. Multiple rounds of negotiations that culminated in an agreement facilitated by the European Union's (EU) High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, Baroness Catherine Ashton, with the support of the United States. The agreement outlines the principles that will govern the normalization of relations between Kosovo and Serbia, and both countries' governments have since approved the agreement and started working to implement it.

Just five years after its declaration of independence, Kosovo is now on the path towards EU, NATO membership, and further integration into the international community. A majority of the United Nations – over 100 countries – now recognize Kosovo's independence and statehood.

Moreover, in light of the agreement and Kosovo's successful implementation of EU recommendations in the areas of public administration, the rule of law, minority protection and trade, the European Commission has recently recommended the opening of negotiations for a Stabilization and Association Agreement with Kosovo. The negotiation process between the European Union and Kosovo will start during this autumn and will eventually be concluded by the end of next spring 2014. The Stabilization and Association Process for Kosovo has enormous impact for its role in international affairs, even beyond the European Union.

The Local Elections scheduled for 3 November 2013, will provide a new turning-point for all communities living in Kosovo, irrespective of their ethnic or religion affiliation. The participation of citizens in the local elections of the Republic of Kosovo will offer them the opportunity to increase their welfare and to improve their life based on legitimate and legal municipalities.

There are a total of 103 political entities of all communities that have met the requirements to participate in the elections, among which are 18 from the Serbian community.

The Kosovo Central Election Commission certified the Serb Civic Initiative, supported by Belgrade only after they agreed to change the name of Serbia citizens' initiative¹.

¹ <http://ina-online.net/kosova/34781.html>, lately checked on 23.10.2013.



History of Local Elections in Kosovo

HISTORY OF LOCAL ELECTIONS IN KOSOVO

In Kosovo four local elections have been held since 2002. The first elections for local government were held on 28th October 2000, the first elections since the end of the war in Kosovo. The number of voters in those election was 913 179, while 79% was the turnout at the polls, the highest ever in Kosovo². In those elections citizens voted in an open voting system for a single candidate. The voting took place in 30 municipalities around Kosovo. From 920 councilor seats, 869 councilors were elected and three Serbian municipalities were appointed by the head of UN administration³. More than 13,000 observers were placed in Kosovo in 2000. At the beginning the mandate of local governments in Kosovo was only two years.

Second elections for local governments were held on 26th October 2002. The number of voters in those elections was 1 320 481, whereas the turnout was 54% at the polls⁴. These elections were organized through closed lists system, and voters could vote only for political entities. This system enabled the leadership in political parties to decide who would enter the local assemblies and who would not. But political parties had to respect the 30% gender quote which was applied even with closed lists. In total, there were 30 municipalities where local elections were organized.

The 2007 local elections were held on 17th November 2007. Those were the last elections organized by UNMIK together with Kosovo authorities before the country declared its independence. The turnout of voters for the local elections was 39.4%, while for the parliamentary ones which were organized at the same time was 54%, whereas on 8th December the second round of elections for mayors was organized⁵. In the elections of 2007 for the first time the electoral threshold of 5 % was introduced. Also citizens could vote for a mayor in a separate ballot. The elections were organized in 30 municipalities around Kosovo, but the UN administration appointed the assemblies in five municipalities where the Serbs lived, including four mayors.

The last local Elections were held on 15th November 2009. The Central Election Commission, based on the Law on Central and Local Elections, has implemented these elections, the first elections organized independently after the declaration of independence on 17th February, 2008 in Kosovo. In the elections of 15th November the turnout was 45.36% or 709 362 voters went to vote⁶. From the results of the November 15 elections, in the second round of elections went 21 municipalities on 13th December⁷. Due to election frauds several municipalities had to organize re-elections based on the decision of the Central Election Commission.

On 29th April 2012 extraordinary elections for the Mayor of Ferizaj were organized while on 27th June for the Mayor of Kacanik.

2 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2000. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zgjedhjet-komunale-2000>


3 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2000. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zgjedhjet-komunale-2000>

4 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2002. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zgjedhjet-komunale-2002>

5 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2007. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zgjedhjet-2007>

6 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2009. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/rezultatet-2009>

7 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2009. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/rezultatet-2009>



Voting Model

Voting Model

Kosovo Elections are held every four years for local assemblies and municipal mayors, as well as in exceptional cases. Under the legislation in force in Kosovo, the mayor is elected according to the majority system, and if fails to win over 50 % of the vote, he/she goes to a runoff with candidate who is ranked second. In contrast to the selection of the mayor, local assembly members are elected under the proportional system.

The President of the Republic of Kosovo calls the elections every four years, while the decision is announced in the Official Gazette. Each municipality in Kosovo during the local elections is a single electoral district.

According to the Law on local elections a candidate is elected Mayor of the Municipality if he/she receives more than 50 % plus one vote of the total number of valid votes cast in the municipality. If no candidate wins more than 50 % plus one of the total votes cast, a second round of elections held between the two candidates who received the most votes. A second round of elections is held four weeks after the first round of mayoral elections. The candidate who receives the most votes in the second round is elected as mayor.

In the case of the Municipal Assemblies, the seat allocation system is based on D' Hondt method of proportional representation according to which in Kosovo total number of valid votes received by each political party in a municipality shall be divided by 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, and so on until the number of divisors corresponding to the total number of seats to be allocated to the Municipal Assembly. ⁸Coefficients resulting from the division series are arranged in descending order, which means that the first place goes to the entity with the largest quotient, the second subject of the next greater coefficient etc ., until all places are allocated to the respective Municipal Assembly.

The law provides that in Kosovo at least 30 % of all seats in municipal assemblies should be allocated to female candidates to keep a gender quota in assemblies, whereas if the quota is not reached directly by voting last candidate elected one gender will be replaced by the next eligible candidate of the opposite sex in the reordered list until the total number of seats allocated to the minority gender is at least 30 %.

Electoral authorities

The Kosovo Central Election Commission (CEC) is a permanent independent institution established by the Constitution of the Republic and which is the central authority in the organization and conduct of elections in the country. The role of the CEC is to regulate the electoral process through the adoption of Electoral Rules and supervision of the electoral process in all aspects to ensure that the elections achieve international standards. CEC has 11 members: the chairman is appointed by the President and is a member of the Supreme Court, while 10 members appointed by the President and nominated by political parties that are in the Assembly, of which four must be from minority groups⁹.

Kosovo CEC is responsible for certification of candidates for mayor and municipal assembly members and their political entity, to print and count the ballots, to announce the results, the creation of local election commissions and councils, etc.

⁸ Law on Local Elections in the Republic of Kosovo. Available at: http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/common/docs/ligjet/2008_03-L040_al.pdf

⁹ Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo. Available at: http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/common/docs/ligjet/2008_03-L040_al.pdf

CEC Secretariat helps in organizing the technical aspects of the election, as the registration of political parties and other duties transferred from CEC.

Municipal Election Commissions are local branches of the CEC which are headed by a Chief Executive elected by the CEC in every municipality in Kosovo and which have seven members from political parties that passed the threshold in national elections. Municipal Election Commission's responsibility is to administer elections within their municipality ensuring the legality, legitimacy and efficiency of the electoral process.

Polling Station Committees are bodies in villages and neighborhoods where a polling station is open on Election Day and are responsible for managing the polling station on Election Day and the first counting of ballots.

The Election Complaints and Appeals Commission is a crucial institution in Kosovo during the election process. This is an independent body responsible for reviewing complaints about the electoral process.

Right to be elected

In Kosovo every citizen who holds a citizenship of Kosovo has the right to run for public office after reaching the age of 18. In local elections the candidates running in the municipalities must be residents of the respective municipalities and mayoral candidates must be a resident for the past 3 years.

Kosovo compared to other countries in the region does not have a lustration law that makes it impossible for candidates to run for public office because of their past during the communist regime and the authorities of pre-1999.

Candidates applying on a list submitted by their political subject, or by themselves if they are independent candidate must submit a financial statement and other information required by the CEC.

The number of members of Municipal Assemblies

According to the Law on Local Self-Government, the Municipal Assembly is the highest body in the municipality elected directly by the citizens in accordance with the Law on Local Elections. The number of members of the Municipal Assembly is proportional, depending on the number of citizens in the municipality. Under the law, if a municipality has up to 10,000 citizens of the municipality assembly consists of 15 members, up to 20,000 inhabitants - 19 members, up to 30,000 inhabitants - 21 members, up to 50,000 inhabitants - 27 members, up to 70,000 inhabitants - 31 members, up to 100,000 inhabitants - 35 members, more than 100,000 inhabitants - 41 members¹⁰. Prishtina is the only municipal assembly which has 51 members because of a special rule as the capital city.

¹⁰ Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Article 36. Available at: http://www.kuvend-ikosoves.org/common/docs/ligjet/2008_03-L040_al.pdf

The procedure and the right to nominate candidates for mayors and council lists

CEC Secretariat operates with an Office of Political Party Registration and Certification, which is responsible for maintaining the register of political parties and certification of all political parties. The law provides for the purpose of participation in the elections, the political entity must be certified by the CEC sixty (60) days before the election¹¹.

According to the Law on General Elections, a political party, coalition or citizens' initiative that has applied for certification to participate in the election of CEC submits a list of candidates.

The Office for the registration of political parties reviews all lists of candidates and recommends CEC certification or not of the list within ten (10) days after receipt¹².

The law stipulates that on the list of candidates at least 30 % are male and at least 30 % female candidates, with one candidate from each gender included at least once in each set of three candidates.

Any person is eligible to be certified unless he or she is: a judge or prosecutor, member of the Kosovo Security Force, a member of the Kosovo Police, member of the Kosovo Customs Service, member of the Kosovo Intelligence Agency, diplomatic representative, chairperson or member of the CEC, a member of the Municipal Election Commission, convicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia by court decision, has been deprived of the right to be a candidate, etc¹³.

The election campaign

In Kosovo the election campaign begins 30 days before the Election Day and ends 24 hours before the election, when the election silence begins, when it is forbidden to campaign.

The law provides that the election campaign is organized in a congenial and peaceful atmosphere.

During the election campaign, political parties organize and hold meetings/events with speeches of candidates to promote their election program and the list of candidates.

By the law, public institutions should enable equal access to all certified political entities to buildings, equipment and other facilities to develop an electoral campaign.

According to the Law on Financing of Political Parties, for the local election campaign financing, with the Government's proposal the Assembly allocates not more than 0.05% of the budget of Kosovo¹⁴.

¹¹ Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Article 27.3. Available at: http://www.kqz-ks.org/Uploads/Documents/ligji_per_zgjedhjet_e_pergjithshme_ne_republiken_e_kosoves_ibrejquwhqh.pdf

¹² Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo. Available at: http://www.kqz-ks.org/Uploads/Documents/ligji_per_zgjedhjet_e_pergjithshme_ne_republiken_e_kosoves_ibrejquwhqh.pdf

¹³ Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Article 29. Available at: http://www.kqz-ks.org/Uploads/Documents/ligji_per_zgjedhjet_e_pergjithshme_ne_republiken_e_kosoves_ibrejquwhqh.pdf

¹⁴ Law for Financing Political Parties, Article 10.1. Available at: <http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2010-174-alb.pdf>

According to the Local Elections Law, 90 % of the funds are allocated in the Municipal Assemblies countries in recent local elections and 10 % of funds are allocated proportionally to the newly registered political parties¹⁵. The political entity has the right to collect funds for its election expenses, not more than six (6) months prior to the election campaign and to have a separate bank account. The political entities registered at the CEC shall submit an annual report for the financial.

The role of public media

All media in Kosovo according to the legislation should ensure that political parties and candidates have equal access to their promotion and their program before voters. Code of Conduct for Broadcasting Media and Code of Conduct (CoC) for the Press, the Independent Media Commission (IMC) campaign applies to all journalists, editors, publishers and broadcasters. Public broadcasting media should broadcast voters' education material for free in Kosovo. The media may decide to pay for political ads and certified candidates. But besides that, during the campaign period licensees must provide a minimum number of minutes of free airtime to each certified political entity. Similar free space is provided in the print media. IMC is responsible for the conduct of the media during the election campaign and has the right to impose penalties under the law.

Election Observation

In Kosovo, according to election law, certified political entities, NGOs and governmental and inter-governmental organizations, as well as specialized international organizations which deal with elections and protection of human rights, and representatives of foreign countries, have the right to seek accreditation for sending election observers¹⁶. The observer has the right to observe without being hindered the preparation and conduct of elections, to submit written comments to the electoral commissions and polling station, to observe the packaging, transfer, delivery, handling, counting, safe storage and destruction of ballots, etc¹⁷. It is the task of the observers to refrain from wearing distinctive signs which serve as a means of propaganda or that may affect the voters or identify it with a particular party or candidate¹⁸.

Election observers are impartial and politically neutral during the election process.

15 Law for Financing Political Parties, Article 10.1. Available at: <http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2010-174-alb.pdf>

16 Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Article 56. Available at: http://www.kqz-ks.org/Uploads/Documents/ligji_per_zgjedhjet_e_pergjithshme_ne_republiken_e_kosoves_ibrejqrwhqh.pdf

17 Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Article 56.4. Available at: http://www.kqz-ks.org/Uploads/Documents/ligji_per_zgjedhjet_e_pergjithshme_ne_republiken_e_kosoves_ibrejqrwhqh.pdf

18 Law on General Elections in the Republic of Kosovo, Article 56.4. Available at: http://www.kqz-ks.org/Uploads/Documents/ligji_per_zgjedhjet_e_pergjithshme_ne_republiken_e_kosoves_ibrejqrwhqh.pdf

Parliamentary political parties

Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK)



Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK) has declared itself as a center-right orientated party in the beginning of 2013¹⁹.

Founded on 10th October 1999 following the entry of KFOR troops in Kosovo and as a political successor of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), PDK is geared as a party which aimed the independence and integration into the EU and Kosovo's membership in NATO.

Since its establishment, the president of PDK has been the current Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi, who has been the Political Director and leader of the political wing of the KLA.

The highest organ of the Democratic Party of Kosovo is the Governing Council, which today counts 106 members.²⁰ . The Presidency elects the Secretary General of the Party with a special procedure²¹. PDK has been spread throughout the territory of Kosovo. Activity in the field is covered by more than 32 branches. The Executive body of the PDK is the Presidency which is elected by the Governing Council and counts 28 members²².

In the first local elections held in late 2000, the PDK won 187,821 votes, or 27.3 % of the vote in Kosovo level. PDK managed to get the local government in the municipalities of Drenas, Kacanik, Novo Brdo, Skenderaj, Shtimja and Shterpca²³. PDK was ranked second party after the LDK in the country.

Kosovo's second local elections were held on 26 October 2002 where the Democratic Party of Kosovo reached a majority in four municipalities and in four others the control in coalition with smaller parties²⁴.

In the first parliamentary elections in Kosovo of 2001, PDK held the position as the second largest in the country, won 25.6 % of votes which resulted in 26 seats in the Assembly²⁵.

19 PDK a the center-right party. Published: 01/27/2013. Koha Ditore. Available at: <http://www.koha.net/?page=1,13.132477>

20 The Governing Council of PDK. Democratic Party of Kosovo. Available at: <http://www.pdk49.com/index.php?page=1,23>

21 The Governing Council of PDK. Democratic Party of Kosovo. Available at: <http://www.pdk49.com/index.php?page=1,23>

22 The Governing Council of PDK. Democratic Party of Kosovo. Available at: <http://www.pdk49.com/index.php?page=1,23>

23 Kosovo Election Commission. Local elections 2000. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zg-jedhjet-komunale-2000>

24 Kosovo Election Commission. Local elections 2002. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zg-jedhjet-komunale-2002>

25 Kosovo: Landmark Election. 21 November 2001. Balkans Report N° 120. Available at: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/europe/Kosovo%2027.pdf>

After mediation of the UN Special Representative in Kosovo, Michael Steiner, three main Albanian political parties (LDK, PDK, AAK) together with the minorities formed the first post-war government with Prime Minister Bajram Rexhepi who came from the PDK.

In the 2004 parliamentary elections PDK came second in Kosovo by increasing the number of seats in Parliament from 26 to 30 (28.85%)²⁶.

Trends in these elections showed that PDK has increased its support in Kosovo. While LDK and AAK formed with the minorities the government, PDK became the main opposition party in Kosovo, which had also created a shadow government using the British model to challenge the government.

In 2007 local and parliamentary elections PDK score had reached its best becoming the first political party in Kosovo. It won central mayoral position in 17 municipalities and it won 37 seats, or 34.5 % of the results in the parliamentary elections²⁷. In January 2008 PDK created a grand coalition government with LDK with Thaçi becoming prime minister.

In the 2009 local elections PDK won while maintaining the position as the main political party in Kosovo. PDK got a majority in 17 local assemblies²⁸.

Coalition with the LDK has not existed for a long period because in 2010 Kosovo went to early parliamentary elections due to the withdrawal of LDK from the coalition. During these elections PDK lost 2 % and achieved only 34 seats in Parliament²⁹. But it was ranked the first political party in Kosovo and created a coalition with the AKR of Pacolli, thus Thaçi was re-elected as Prime Minister.

The Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) was founded on 23rd December 1989 by a group of intellectuals in Kosovo as a political movement against the Milošević regime which had already suspended Kosovo's constitution and its autonomous status in the Yugoslav federation³⁰.

LDK is a centre-right party which seeks membership in the EU and strategic relations with the US. LDK is an associate member of the European Peoples Party (EPP).

The LDK at the beginning was not a political party, but more a popular movement which enjoyed broad support among the Albanians living in Kosovo and abroad.

LDK is organized through the Assembly, Presidency, General Council and different branches across Kosovo³¹. From the beginning until 2006 when he passed away, the leader of LDK was Ibrahim Rugova. He was followed then by Fatmir Sejdiu as a party leader and the President of Kosovo in 2006 until 2010 when he was sacked out by the Constitutional Court of Kosovo for violating the constitutions by holding two positions at the same time³². Sejdiu was opposed also in LDK in 2010 by his former economy advisor Isa Mustafa who became party leader and currently is the Mayor of Prishtina.

LDK since the end of the war in Kosovo until 2007 was the main political party in Kosovo enjoying broad support. During the first local elections of 2000 LDK got a support of 58% in national level, the highest since the end of the war in 1999³³. In the elections of 2001 LDK won 47 (out of 120) seats in Parliament while the same number it kept during the Parliamentary elections of 2004³⁴. In 2001 LDK joined the PDK and AAK in a broad coalition when also Ibrahim Rugova was elected as the President of Kosovo and Nexhat Daci as speaker of the Parliament. During the local elections of 2002 LDK again kept the position of the leading party in Kosovo gaining 17 municipalities in Kosovo, including the biggest cities Pristina, Gjakova, Peja and Gjilan³⁵. In 2004 LDK together with AAK created a coalition to govern Kosovo when it kept both the President and Speaker position and gave to AAK the Prime Minister position³⁶.

30 Key Political Parties in Kosovo. Balkan Insight. Available at: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/who-is-who-political-parties-in-kosovo>

31 Organization. Democratic League of Kosovo. Available at: <http://www.ldk-ks.eu/Al/organizimi/>

32 Kosovo Opposition Hails Sejdiu Resignation. Balkan Insight. Available at: <http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/kosovo-sejdiu-welcomed-to-his-party>

33 Kosovo Election Commission. Local elections 2000. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zgjedhjet-komunale-2000>

34 Kosovo: Landmark Election. 21 November 2001. Balkans Report N° 120. Available at: <http://www.crisis-group.org/~media/Files/europe/Kosovo%2027.pdf>

35 Kosovo Election Commission. Local elections 2002. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zgjedhjet-komunale-2002>

36 Rugova triumphs in Kosovo polls. BBC. Monday, 25 October 2004. Available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3949293.stm>

26 Rugova triumphs in Kosovo polls. BBC. Monday, 25 October 2004. Available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3949293.stm>

27 Kosovo. Legislative Election 2007. Electoral Geography 2.0. Available at: <http://www.electoralgeography.com/new/en/countries/k/kosovo/kosovo-legislative-election-2007.html>

28 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2009. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/zgjedhjet-komunale-2009>

29 Kosovo Election Commission. General elections. <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/zgjedhjet-e-pergjithshme>

During the 2007 Parliamentary elections LDK got its worst results in elections by gaining only 25 seats in the Parliament³⁷.

Such a result LDK experienced with the local elections as well, which were held during the same time with the parliamentary ones, gaining majority only in 7 towns. Due to the circumstances before the declaration of independence PDK and LDK joined in a coalition with the minorities when President Sejdiu was re-elected and Hashim Thaçi became Prime Minister. But this coalition lasted until 2010 when it broke up and early elections were called which gave LDK 27 seats in the Parliament and made it for the first time an opposition party. During the 2009 local elections LDK gained only 8 municipalities the majority thus remaining in the second position again³⁸. In the Parliamentary elections of 2010 LDK gained 29.3% of the votes in national level and for the first time became an opposition party in the Parliament since its foundation.

Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK)

AAK was founded on 29 April 2001 as a centre-right oriented party by former KLA warlords and small political parties who had functioned before and after 1999 in Kosovo as a small opposition to LDK.

The leader of AAK has been Ramush Haradinaj since the beginning.

AAK is organized through the Assembly, Presidency, General Council and different branches across Kosovo.

AAK took part in elections in Kosovo for the first time during the parliamentary elections of 2001 when it gained 8 seats in the Parliament³⁹. AAK entered then the broad coalition government with LDK and PDK gaining some ministerial posts.

In the local elections of 2002 AAK gained the majority only in one municipality, in Decan, while in 2007 it gained the majority and mayors in three cities, in Western Kosovo. In the Parliamentary elections of 2007 AAK also saw an increase in its national support, gaining 10 seats in the Parliament.

AAK entered then the broad coalition government with LDK and PDK gaining some ministerial posts.

In the local elections of 2002 AAK gained the majority only in one municipality, in Decan, while in 2007 it gained the majority and mayors in three cities, in Western Kosovo⁴⁰.

In the Parliamentary elections of 2007 AAK also saw an increase in its national support, gaining 10 seats in the Parliament⁴¹. AAK did not join the coalition of PDK-LDK and thus represented with AKR the opposition in the Parliament.

In the local elections of 2009 AAK won in 6 municipalities in Kosovo, mainly in the Dukagjin region, gaining also the major cities Peja/Pec and Gjakova/Djakovica⁴².



In the elections of 2010 AAK increased its support gaining 12 seats in the Parliament, and continuing to be part of the opposition⁴³.

VETËVENDOSJE Movement (VV)

VETËVENDOSJE! was founded on 10th June 2005. Basically the founders of Vetevendosje were part of Kosovo Action Network (KAN) that was founded in December 1997.

VETËVENDOSJE! today represents the only left-wing political group in the parliament, while all other main political parties declared themselves as centre-right oriented.

Initially the concept of VETËVENDOSJE! was to oppose the international presence especially UNMIK but also other political processes such as Standards before Status and Ahtisari Package. Besides internationals they also strongly opposed local politicians and political parties for subordination towards international presence, neglecting the aspiration to be united with Albania but also for corruption. Vetevendosje always ignored Kosovo institutions and during the elections processes they invited and advocated to the citizens to ignore this process and not vote.

The methodology of opposing those processes were mainly through street actions, demonstrations, protest, sometimes violent events by throwing stones and tomatoes but also overturned cars. During a demonstration against the negotiations for the political status of Kosovo on 10th February 2007 two protesters were killed⁴⁴.

Finally, In 2010 VETËVENDOSJE! decided to become a political movement, by being part of the parliamentary elections. Vetevendosje achieved a pre-election coalition with Levizja per Bashkim and together they won 14 seats in the Parliament and became third political subject in the country⁴⁵. After some disputes within these two political subjects, this coalition was terminated and two members of the parliament left VETËVENDOSJE!. Recently another MP left VETËVENDOSJE! for conceptual reasons, and Vetevendosje has only 11 MPs. VETËVENDOSJE! for the first time is running for municipal elections in all municipalities, excluding municipal elections in Kaçanik and Ferizaj. These elections will be a good test for them to show their power not only in Parliament but also in municipalities.



37 Rugova triumphs in Kosovo polls. BBC. Monday, 25 October 2004. Available at: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3949293.stm> com/new/en/countries/k/kosovo/kosovo-legislative-election-2007.html

38 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2009. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/zgjedhjet-komunale-2009>

39 Kosovo: Landmark Election. 21 November 2001. Balkans Report N° 120. Available at: <http://www.crisis-group.org/~media/Files/europe/Kosovo%2027.pdf>

40 Kosovo Election Commission. Local elections 2002. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/en/zgjedhjet-komunale-2002>

41 Kosovo Legislative Election 2007. Electoral Geography 2.0. Available at: <http://www.electoralgeography.com/new/en/countries/k/kosovo/kosovo-legislative-election-2007.html>

42 Kosovo Election Commission. Local Elections 2009. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/zgjedhjet-komunale-2009>

43 Kosovo Election Commission. General Elections. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/zgjedhjet-e-pergjithshme>

44 <http://bdnews24.com/world/2007/03/23/romanian-police-leave-kosovo-in-middle-of-un-probe>

45 Kosovo Election Commission. General Elections. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/zgjedhjet-e-pergjithshme>

Kosovo New Alliance (AKR)

Kosovo New Alliance (AKR) was founded on 3rd May 2006 by a well-known businessman from Kosovo, Behgjet Pacolli, who was economically active in the former Soviet countries. AKR is a liberal party, promoting strongly a liberal market economy. Immediately in 2007, AKR showed its power in parliamentary elections, by winning 12 percent of the total votes⁴⁶.

Even though AKR had 13 members in parliament, they remained opposition to the PDK-LDK government. This new party on the Kosovo political scene, slowly started to lose its credibility, initially some MPs resigned to become independent MPs, due to internal disagreement and not remaining loyal to its programme.

Collapse of AKR became more obvious in the municipal election of 2009, when they reached a coalition with LDD. Results were a complete failure they could not win in any municipality.

Looking through this not successful history of AKR, the new parliamentary election was decided to be held in 2010. Pacolli and his party calculated that alone it will be difficult for them to pass the threshold of 5%, therefore they entered in a coalition with a group of small political parties reaching all together only 7.29% of total votes and 8 seats⁴⁷. Even though they had a breakdown based on the results of 2007, AKR reached agreement with PDK to be part of the government.

Nevertheless, troubles in AKR continued even after the coalition. One of the conditions of the coalition was that Pacolli becomes President of Kosovo. Although he was elected President, after 35 days the Constitution Court declared this election unconstitutional. Besides all these events, AKR still remains a coalition partner. Regarding its power, the elections of 2013 are crucial for the political survival of AKR in Kosovo's political scene.



Independent Liberal Party (SLS)



Samostalna Liberalna Stranka (Independent Liberal Party) was founded in 2006. This party, known as a liberal party, represents Kosovo's Serbian community. SLS is a political group which has taken a pragmatic stance after the independence of Kosovo, joining the Parliament and the government. Currently, SLS are part of the government coalition with PDK and AKR and they run two ministries and they have one vice prime minister. Based on Kosovo constitution, the Serbian community has 10 reserved seats in parliament, and must be part of the government indeed. If we look through the election results in 2007 SLS had only 855 votes and they had 5 MPs and in 2010 they had 14,352 votes in total 0.02% of total votes and translated in seats they had 8 MPs⁴⁸. Looking through these results and low number of voters, the future is not very clear for SLS. Lately after Kosovo and Serbia negotiation, it expected a large number of Serbian voters that could shake the position of SLS in parliament and in government also.

⁴⁶ Kosovo Legislative Election 2007. Electoral Geography 2.0. Available at: <http://www.electoralgeography.com/new/en/countries/k/kosovo/kosovo-legislative-election-2007.html>

⁴⁷ Kosovo Election Commission. General Elections. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/zgjedhjet-e-pergjithshme>

⁴⁸ Kosovo Election Commission. General Elections. Available at: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/zgjedhjet-e-pergjithshme>

Overview of candidates for Mayors for the 2013 local elections⁴⁹

Prishtina

Area	572 km ²
Number of residents	198 214
Members of municipality assembly	51
Budget for 2013 in Euro	63.371.731
Address	Rr.UÇK-2-10000 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Phone number	038/230 900
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/prishtina/Home.aspx

ISA MUSTAFA (LDK)



Mustafa is associate professor of microeconomics at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Pristina and at the Riinvest University. He has been committee member in several doctorate and master works at the Faculty of Economics. He has been actively engaged in talks at the Vienna talks on Kosovo's final status. In 2008 he was elected Correspondent Member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo. He is president of the Democratic League of Kosovo (originally LDK). In December 2012, he was elected regular member (academician) of Academy of Sciences and Arts. He is the current President of the Municipality of Pristina since 2007⁵⁰.

AGIM ÇEKU (PDK)



Agim Ceku has attended the Military Academy in Belgrade and Zadar in Croatia, where he graduated in 1984 as Artillery Officer. Then he has successfully finished the "Senior Executive Course" at the George Marshall Centre in Germany. He has a successful career in military sector. He participated on the liberation wars in Kosovo and Croatia. He was prime minister of Kosovo in 2006-2008 period. From 2011 he was elected Minister of the Kosovo Security Force, a position which he held until his nomination for the mayor of Pristina⁵¹.

⁴⁹ Information's gathered for the candidates for mayors were the only one that author's could gather from them and from respective parties

⁵⁰ <http://kk.rks-gov.net/prishtina/Municipality/President/President%60s-word.aspx>, lately checked on 16.10.2013.

⁵¹ <http://www.mksf-ks.org/?page=2,4>, lately checked on 16.10.2013.

BESNIK TAHIRI (AAK)



Is a Master of Science in the field Local Government and International Development. He has finished his Post-graduate studies at the University of Birmingham in England. He graduated in Academic Program for seniors provided by OSCE. Is the recipient of the prestigious scholarship “Chevening”, which is given to the future leaders from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Great Britain (2004). It is currently the founder and Executive Director of the Kosovar Institute for Local Governance. He is a senior Advisor to the President Haradinaj for the Local governance and member of the AAK Presidency⁵².

KORAB R. SEJDIU (AKR)



head studies at a college in New Jersey (USA). In 2004 from a U.S. University was honored with the title of Doctor of justice. Being in exile in the U.S., in some federal states he was licensed as a lawyer in the state. After conducting studies he began work on the Supreme Court of New Jersey (USA). After a few years he worked as a lawyer in a lawyers company, which mainly dealt with corporate and commercial cases. At the end of 2007, Korab returns in Kosovo, and it is committed by USAID, as a legal Adviser in support of the Kosovo Assembly. It is a university professor in several universities accredited in Kosovo⁵³.

SHPEND AHMETI - (VV)



Spend Ahmeti has studied at Harvard University in America. Upon arrival in Kosovo had led the Institute for Advanced Studies, from whom he resigned to create together with other civil society members the new political party called New Spirit (originally FER). New Spirit Party failed to win enough votes to enter the Assembly and after the elections, the party was dissolved. Ahmeti and part of the membership of the party joined the Self-Determination Movement (originally Vetevendosje), when he holds the position of vice-president of the movement. Shpend is a lecturer at the American University in Kosovo⁵⁴.

52 <http://www.mkxf-ks.org/?page=2,4>, lately checked on 16.10.2013.

53 Short biography of the candidate is given to us by his electoral staff.

54 <http://www.perprishtinen.com/biografia/> lately checked on 16.10.2013.

Prizren

Area	284.2/km ²
Number of residents	177,781
Members of municipality assembly	41
Phone number	038 200 35 330
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/prizren/Home.aspx

RAMADAN MUJA (PDK)



has conducted Pristina University, Faculty of Philosophy, Department of History, he has a degree of Master in 1975; Ph.D. in 1984. In 2002 was the bearer of the list for municipal elections in Prizren 2002-2005, vice-president of PDK branch in Prizren in the 2002-2007 period, Advisor in Prizren Municipal Assembly from PDK and mayor since 2007⁵⁵.

EQREM KRYEZIU (LDK)



is a politician and professor of Albanian literature in 2007 he earned a doctorate in philology science at the University of Prishtina. Since the establishment of the LDK in Kosovo and to the third assembly election branch has been its Chairman of the Branch in Prizren. After the 1998 elections has been elected a member of the presidency and after those of 2006 was chosen first vice-president of the LDK in Pristina. Otherwise Eqrem since 1972 Kryeziu was engaged in education. Until 2007 was mayor of Prizren. He is a member of the Kosovo Assembly⁵⁶.

55 <https://kk.rks-gov.net/prizren/Municipality/President.aspx> lately checked on 16.10.2013.

56 Short biography of the candidate is given to us by his electoral staff.

LULZIM KABASHI (AAK)



ARBËR REXHAJ (VV)



FERIZAJ

<u>Area</u>	345km ²
<u>Number of residents</u>	108,610
<u>Members of municipality assembly</u>	41
<u>Phone number</u>	038 327-000
<u>Internet page</u>	http://kk.rks-gov.net/ferizaj/Home.aspx

AGIM ALIU (PDK)

graduated in Law Faculty, now he follows a Master in the Law Faculty in the University of Prishtina. Also studied at the Faculty of Medicine in Prishtina. It is one of the founders of the Democratic Party Branch in Ferizaj Kosovo, that from 2001 onwards is a member of the presidency of the PDK in Ferizaj. From 2007 to 2012 was chairman of the Municipal Assembly of Ferizaj. In 2012 terminating the terms of the Municipal Chairperson, being elected Mayor of Ferizaj in the May 28 elections⁵⁷.



⁵⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/AgimAliu26/info>, lately checked on 16.10.2013.

MUHARREM SFARQA (LDK)



XHAVIT ZARIQI (AAK)

Was engaged among others in the Finance Council of the Municipality of Ferizaj. It was member of human rights council in Ferizaj. He was arrested again in 1998 because of his involvement in the financing of the Kosovo Liberation Army, which is punishable by three years in prison. A member of the Assembly of Ferizaj municipality since 2000 and to date in all legislation, and a member of the Policy and Finance Committee, head of the parliamentary group for several years in opposition and in recent legislation Chief of Parliamentary group and member of the Policy and Finance Committee where he was elected chairman of the Municipal Assembly. He is currently chairman of the Municipal Assembly of Ferizaj⁵⁸.



HYSEN IBRAHIMI (AKR)

He has graduated at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Technical University of Prishtina. He worked as a professor at the Technical Secondary School and Technical High School in Ferizaj, has also worked in Pipe factory where he has followed investment and the technical part of the factory that bends and connecting elements. Has been Director of Planning and Development, and now he is a director of public services in municipality of Ferizaj. From the establishment of AKR he has been a member of the political party in this branch of Ferizaj, and since 2013 is president of this branch⁵⁹.



⁵⁸ <http://kk.rks-gov.net/ferizaj/Municipality/Assembly/Assembly-function.aspx>, lately checked on 16.10.2013.

⁵⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/hysen.ibrahimi.16>, lately checked on 16.10.2013.

FATON TOPALLI (VV)



Has an undergraduate degree in social sciences in Zurich, Switzerland, and is also near the Masters Degree at the same institute. Fatoni has worked in psychosocial service in Switzerland from 2008 to 2010. It is also a lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences in Zurich from 2007 to 2010. Has been one of the leaders of the Movement for the Republic, and in illegal activist since 1978 until 1991. It is a activist at self-determination Movement⁶⁰.

Peja

<u>Area</u>	603 km ²
<u>Number of residents</u>	96,450
<u>Members of municipality assembly</u>	41
<u>Phone number</u>	039 421 212
<u>Internet page</u>	http://kk.rks-gov.net/peje/

ALI BERISHA (AAK)



a member of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo. As a member of the party, he is also chairman of the branch in Peja and Member of the Presidium of the Central. He has finished Gymnasium high school in Peja, while faculty of Medicine in Pristina, where he specialized internal medicine. After finishing his studies, Berisha worked from 1991-1997 as a doctor in clinic and ambulance of "Mother Teresa". From 1998-1999, he was member of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and he was responsible for the health sector in Dukagjin Operational Zone. During 1999-2001, he was elected as Director of the Directorate of Health in the Municipality of Peja while during 2001-2007 Director of the Regional Hospital in Peja.

It is Peja's mayor since 2007⁶¹.

⁶⁰ <http://fatontopalli.com/biografi-e-shkurter>, lately checked on 16.10.2013.

⁶¹ Short biography of the candidate is given to us by his electoral staff.

GAZMEND MUHAXHERI (LDK)



MUHAMET HALITAJ (PDK)



has finished the Faculty of Medicine, has specialized in psychiatry at Faculty of Medicine at University of Prishtina. Dr. Muhamet Haliti immediately after the war, was one of the founders of the Democratic Party Branch of Kosovo in Peja, currently a member of the PDK, Branch Peja, for three times he is member of assembly, also the most voted assemblies in municipality of Peja, deputy director of the Regional Hospital in Peja and candidate for mayor in the municipality of Peja⁶².

HIVZI MUHARREMI (VV)



⁶² Short biography of the candidate is given to us by his electoral staff.

Gjilan

Area	385 km ²
Number of residents	90,178.
Members of municipality assembly	41
Phone number	0280/320 781
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/gjilan/Home.aspx

QEMAJL MUSTAFA (PDK)

Has an undergraduate degree in electro. Is actively involved in politics after the first local elections in 2000 in Democratic Party of Kosova (originally PDK). At first it was only activist and then in second elections was elected member of the party leadership as a vice-president. In the third internal election in PDK he was elected president of the branch and in 2007 was a candidate for mayor from and from then he is a mayor of Gjilan municipality⁶³ .



LUTFI HAZIRI (LDK)

Is a professor of biology. Has been vice president of the Municipality of Gjilan (1999-2000), and Mayor of Gjilan from 2001 to 2004. He was founder and president of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities. From December 2004 to January 2008 was minister of the Ministry of Local Government and Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo. He was Chairman of the Parliamentary Group LDK (2008-2010) and for several months was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport (June 2010-October 2010). Is a member of Kosovo Assembly⁶⁴.



⁶³ <http://kk.rks-gov.net/gjilan/Municipality/President/President-profile.aspx>, lately checked on 16.10.2013.

⁶⁴ Short biography of the candidate is given to us by his electoral staff.

REXHEP KADRIU (AAK)

studied at the Faculty of Construction and Architecture, Department of Architecture. Since the completion of studies began with his private company of Construction, while in 2001 he has opened the private company for production of concrete “Pro Eng” in. He has guided and supervised a number of projects for construction. Since 2001, since the establishment of AAK in Gjilan has been a party activist. Some time has participated in committees for urban planning within the party. On March 31, 2013 was elected president of AAK in. On May 21, 2013 is was elected as a candidate from AAK for mayor of Gjilan⁶⁵.



FATON BISLIMI (AKR)

completed his studies with the highest praises (summa cum laude) at Texas Lutheran University (TLU) in computer science and mathematics and later completed master's the prestigious Harvard University in public administration and international development. Bislimi is the author of two books, a summary of mathematical problems and a series of writings titled “In The channel Kosovo: downhill and uphill”, published in 2006 in Houston, Texas⁶⁶ . Foundation “The Bislimi Group” is set to create educational opportunities for young Kosovars and so far has allocated 7 full scholarships to study at TLU. Faton Bislimi was an independent candidate for mayor of Gnjilane municipal elections of 2009.



ISMAJL KURTESHI (VV)

studied English language and literature from 1971 - 1976 at the University of Prishtina. It is one of the first employees in Television of Prishtina. In this institution, until in 1988, he was committed to the quality programs. From this year until 1998, practiced teacher at the Gymnasium of Gjilan. In time of war contributed as chairman of the Council of Emergency in Gjilan. In 1999 he was elected Mayor of Gjilan. From 2001 to 2010 was a member of Kosovo Assembly. Is Self-Determination Movement activist⁶⁷.



⁶⁵ Short biography of the candidate is given to us by his electoral staff..

⁶⁶ Short biography of the candidate is given to us by his electoral staff.

⁶⁷ Short biography of the candidate is given to us by his electoral staff.

Mitrovicë Jugore

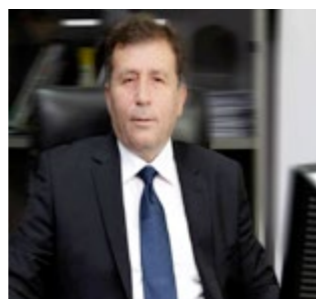
<u>Area</u>	350 km ²
<u>Number of residents</u>	71,909
<u>Members of municipality assembly</u>	41
<u>Phone number</u>	038 530 201
<u>Internet page</u>	http://kk.rks-gov.net/mitrovice/Home.aspx

AVNI KASTRATI (PDK)

Has an undergraduate degree in technical branch of machinery in Pristina in 1976. He worked as a professor at technical schools and for a long time been engaged in various positions in Trepça in professional and managerial leadership. He was a member of the Board of Kosovo Chamber of Commerce; Member of the Council Presidency and the PDK steering - Division in Mitrovica since 2002, Chairman of the drafting committee for professional development projects, proposed at Donors Conference for Mitrovica in May 2008⁶⁸.



MEHDI JONUZI (LDK)



⁶⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Avni-Kastrati-Faqja-Zyrtare/255272261265446?id=255272261265446&sk=info>, lately checked on 16.10.2013

SHABAN DRAGAJ (AAK)



AGIM BAHTIRI (AKR)



FARUK MUJKA (VV)



Gjakova

<u>Area</u>	586 km ²
<u>Number of residents</u>	94,556
<u>Members of municipality assembly</u>	41
<u>Phone number</u>	0390/321-100
<u>Internet page</u>	http://kk.rks-gov.net/gjakove/Home.aspx

PAL LEKAJ (AAK)

in the years 1984/5 began studying medicine at the University of Prishtina. In 1993 he managed to take the title Doctor of Medicine. But to meet university teachings and practices of other schools he has continued his studies at Nerheriends School of Public Health during 2001-2002 also in 2001 defended the title Master of Management, 2005-2006 - National School of Government 2006 - Menager training Programme -DFID Project etc.Is Gjakova's mayor since the year 2007⁶⁹ .



Mimoza Kusari - Lila (AKR)

has earned Ron Brown's scholarship from the State Department , which enabled her to have a master of Business Administration (MBA) at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh , where in 2001 he specialized in e-business . She graduated from the University of Prishtina Faculty of Economics, where she graduated in 1998 in management and information systems. She was deputy prime minister and minister of Trade and Industry by 23 February of 2011 until the beginning of campaign for local election. In her job as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry, she was responsible for coordinating the essential economic reform objectives set out in the Government's Economic Vision for the year 2011-2014 , as well as to address and formulate policies for the development of trade and industry. Mrs. Kusari - Lila is also an active member of society on issues of gender equality and is engaged in various activities for greater participation of women in decision-making role, in particular greater involvement of women in the economy ⁷⁰ .



⁶⁹ <http://kk.rks-gov.net/gjakove/Komuna/Kryetari.aspx> ,lately checked on 16.10.2013.

⁷⁰ <http://www.mti-ks.org/sq/Ministrja>,lately checked on 16.10.2013.

LUAN GOLA (LDK)



HAJDAR BEQA (PDK)



ARBERIE NAGAVCI (VV)



Deçan

<u>Area</u>	372 km ²
<u>Number of residents</u>	38 984
<u>Members of municipality assembly</u>	27
<u>Phone number</u>	0390 361 100
<u>Internet page</u>	http://kk.rks-gov.net/decan/Home.aspx

RASIM SELMANAJ (AAK)

BLERIM BAJRAKTARAJ (LDK)

XHEVDET HASANMETAJ (PDK)

BILALL HADERGJONAJ (VV)

BURIM BERISHA (LDK)

NASER GRAJQEVCI (PDK)

HASAN KRASNIQI (AAK)

SHABAN ADEMI (AKR)

YLBER ISLAMI (VV)

Dragash

<u>Area</u>	<u>435 km²</u>
<u>Number of residents</u>	<u>33,997</u>
<u>Members of municipality assembly</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Phone number</u>	<u>029 281 543</u>
<u>Internet page</u>	<u>http://kk.rks-gov.net/dragash/</u>

SALIM JANUZI (PDK)

FATMIR MEHMETI (LDK)

SELAMI SAITI (AAK)

BLEDI KURTISHI (VV)

Glllogoc

<u>Area</u>	<u>290 km²</u>
<u>Number of residents</u>	<u>58,531</u>
<u>Members of municipality assembly</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Phone number</u>	<u>038 584 353</u>
<u>Internet page</u>	<u>http://kk.rks-gov.net/glllogoc/Home.aspx</u>

NEXHAT DEMAKU (PDK)

IZET AVDYLI (LDK)

SHABAN HASI (LDK)

RIFAT DEMAKU (VV)

Fushë Kosovë

<u>Area</u>	<u>83 km²</u>
<u>Number of residents</u>	<u>34,827</u>
<u>Members of municipality assembly</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Adresa</u>	<u>Rr.Nëna Terezë p.n</u>
<u>Phone number</u>	<u>038 536 006</u>
<u>Internet page</u>	<u>http://kk.rks-gov.net/fushekosove/</u>

Istog	
Area	454 km ²
Number of residents	39,289
Members of municipality assembly	27
Phone number	039 451 219
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/istog/Home.aspx

HAKI RUGOVA	(LDK)
SHASIVAR HAXHIJAJ	(PDK)
DONIKA KADAJ-BUJUPI	(AAK)
TEUTA HASANI	(AKR)
FLORIN DRESHAJ	(VV)

Junik	
Area	77 km ²
Number of residents	6,084
Members of municipality assembly	15
Phone number	0390 370 617
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/junik/

AGRON KUÇI	(AAK)
ZENUN SHALA	(LDK)
NIMON TOFAJ	(PDK)
REXHEP PEPSHI	(VV)
YLBER ISLAMI	(VV)

Kamenicë	
Area	423 km ²
Number of residents	36,085
Members of municipality assembly	27
Phone number	0280 371 969
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/kamenice/Home.aspx

SHAIP SURDULLI	(LDK)
BEGZAD SINANI	(PDK)
LULZIM LECI	(AAK)
FATMIR MATOSHI	(AKR)
ARDIAN SELISHTA	(VV)

Kaçanik	
Area	210 km ²
Number of residents	33,409
Members of municipality assembly	27
Phone number	038 200 46 400
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/kacanik/Home.aspx

BESIM ILAZI	(PDK)
SELIM REKA	(LDK)
TAHIR ÇAKA	(AAK)
BARDHYL MJAKU	(AKR)
AFIDE KUKA	(VV)

Klinë

Area	308 km ²
Number of residents	38,496
Members of municipality assembly	27
Phone number	039 471 303
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/kline/Home.aspx

SOKOL BASHOTA (PDK)

FADIL GASHI (LDK)

ENVER BERISHA (AAK)

AVNI GASHI (AKR)

HAJZER IDRIZI (VV)

Hani i Elezit

Area	83 km ²
Number of residents	9,403
Members of municipality assembly	27
Phone number	0290-385-112
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/hanielezit/

RUFKI SUMA (independent candidate)

MEHMET BALLAZHI (PDK)

ZYLBEAR HASALLARI (LDK)

Lipjan

Area	422 km ²
Number of residents	57,605
Members of municipality assembly	31
Phone number	038 581-214
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/lipjan/Home.aspx

SHUKRI BUJA (PDK)

IMRI AHMETI (LDK)

FITIM SELIMI (AAK)

RABIT KONJUFCA (VV)

Podujevë

Area	663 km ²
Number of residents	88,499
Members of municipality assembly	41
Phone number	038/571-611
Internet page	http://kk.rks-gov.net/podujeve/

AGIM VELIU (LDK)

NAIM FETAHU (PDK)

ISMET ABDULLAHU (AAK)

ISMET IBISHI (AKR)

XHEMSHIT VOKRRI (VV)

Malisheva

Area	306 km ²
Number of residents	54,613
Members of municipality assembly	31
Budged for 2013	komuna.malisheve@rks-gov.net
Address	029 269 043
Phone number	http://kk.rks-gov.net/malisheve/

ISNI KILAJ (PDK)

SALIH MORINA (LDK)

BASHKIM KRASNIQI (AAK)

ALBAN KRASNIQI (VV)

Mamushë

Area	11 km ²
Number of residents	5,507
Members of municipality assembly	15
Budged for 2013	http://kk.rks-gov.net/mamushe/Home.aspx

GZİM MAZREK (KTB)

ABDÛLHADI KRASNIÇ (KDTP)

ARIF BÛTÛÇ (KTAP)

Novobërdë

Area	204 km ²
Number of residents	6,729.
Members of municipality assembly	15
Budged for 2013	038/576-012
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/novoberde/Home.aspx

YMER BAJRUSH (LDK)

AVDULLA GASHI (AAK-LDD)

ZELË ZEKA (VV)

NAZMI SIJARINA (PDK)

RANKO MAKIÇ (SLS)

Obiliq

Area	105 km ²
Number of residents	21,549.
Members of municipality assembly	21
Budged for 2013	038-561-536
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/obiliq/

MEHMET KRASNIQI (LDK)

VEHBI SADIKU (PDK)

XHAFER GASHI (AAK-LDD)

LABINOT HASHANI (VV)

HILMI HALIMI (AKR)

Partesh

Area	18.3 km ²
Number of residents	1 787
Members of municipality assembly	15
Budged for 2013	049/339-522
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/partesh/Home.aspx

DRAGAN NIKOLIĆ (G.I.S)

NENAD CVETKOVIĆ (SLS)

GORAN MILOŠEVIĆ (DI)

Rahovec

Area	275 km ²
Number of residents	56,208.
Members of municipality assembly	31
Budged for 2013	029/276-037
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/rahovec/

SMAJL LATIFI (AAK-LDD)

IDRIZ VERHAPI (PDK)

FAHREDIN SHEHU (LDK)

DERVISH ÇADRAKU (VV)

SINAN EJUPI (AKR)

Skënderaj

Area	378 km ²
Number of residents	50,858.
Members of municipality assembly	31
Budged for 2013	komuna.skenderaj@ks-gov.net
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/skenderaj/Home.aspx
Phone numberh	028 - 582 - 522

SAMI LUSHTAKU (PDK)

CENË BEHRAMI (LDK)

QAZIM XANI (AAK-LDD)

AJNISHANE HALIMI (VV)

RAMIZ POLACI (AKR)

Shtime

Area	134 km ²
Number of residents	27,342
Members of municipality assembly	21
Budged for 2013	0290/389-016
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/shtime/

NAIM ISMAJLI (PDK)

FATMIR ZYMERI (LDK)

ENVER ADEMI (VV)

XHEMSHIR RASHITI (AAK-LDD)

Shtërpce

Area	247 km ²
Number of residents	6,949.
Members of municipality assembly	19
Budged for 2013	http://kk.rks-gov.net/shterpce/

BRATSILAV NIKOLIÇ (SLS)

IVAN REDŽIĆ (G.I.S)

Suharekë

Area	361 km ²
Number of residents	59,722.
Members of municipality assembly	35
Budged for 2013	029/271-282
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/suhareke/Home.aspx

BALI MUHARREMAJ (AAK-LDD)

RAMË VATAJ (PDK)

SALI ASLLANAJ (LDK)

AHMET IBISHI (VV)

Viti

Area	276 km ²
Number of residents	46,987
Members of municipality assembly	27
Budged for 2013	http://kk.rks-gov.net/viti/Home.aspx

NEXHMEDIN ARIFI (PDK)

SOKOL HALIT (LDK)

HAFIR HOXHA (AAK-LDD)

BLERIM HALABAKU (AKR)

SALIH SALIHU (VV)

Vushtri

Area	344 km ²
Number of residents	69,870
Members of municipality assembly	35
Budged for 2013	028 571 601
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/vushtrri/Home.aspx

BAJRAM LUKALU (PDK)

REFIK RAMAJ (LDK)

MUHARREM SHABANI (AAK-LDD)

XHEMAJL PLLANA (VV)

Zubin Potok

Area	333 km ²
Number of residents	14,900.
Members of municipality assembly	31
Budged for 2013	http://kk.rks-gov.net/zubinpotok/

STEVAN VULOVIĆ

(G.I.S)

Zvečan

Area	122 km ²
Number of residents	17,000
Members of municipality assembly	27
Budged for 2013	http://kk.rks-gov.net/zvecan/default.aspx?lang=en-US

VUČINA JANKOVIĆ

(G.I.S)

NEBOJŠA VLAJIĆ

(G.I.S DP OLIVER IVANOVIC)

Junik

Area	77 km ²
Number of residents	6,084
Members of municipality assembly	15
Budged for 2013	0390 370 617
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/junik/

AGRON KUÇI

(AAK-LDD)

NIMON TOFAJ

(PDK)

ZENUN SHALA

(LDK)

REXHEP PEPSHI

(VV)

Klllokot

Area	23.36 km ²
Number of residents	2 551
Members of municipality assembly	15
Budged for 2013	0280/385-633
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/klllokoti/Home.aspx

HASAN RASHITI

(LDK)

XHELAL REXHEPI

(PDK)

SAŠA MIRKOVIĆ

(SLS)

ZORAN KRČMAROVIĆ

(ZA ZAJEDNIČKU BUDUČNOST)

SREĆKO SPASIĆ

(G.I.S)

Gračanicë

Area	122,25 km ²
Number of residents	25.000
Members of municipality assembly	19
Budged for 2013	+386 49 776 56
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/gracanice/Home.aspx

SRDJAN POPOVIĆ

(SLS)

BRANIMIR STOJANOVIĆ

(G.I.S)

ARTON SMAILI

(PDK)

BOJAN STOJANOVIĆ

(SRBA)

Ranillug

Area	77,62 km ²
Number of residents	3 785
Members of municipality assembly	15
Budged for 2013	0280/315002
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/ranillug/

RADOJICA DOKIÇ (SLS)

GRADIMIR MIKIĆ (G.I.S)

PERICA ANĐELKOVIĆ (CITIZENS INIATIVE FOR KOSOVO'S AMAMORAVA)

IGOR MITIĆ (S.I)

Partesh

Area	18.3 km ²
Number of residents	1 787
Members of municipality assembly	15
Budged for 2013	049/339-522
Address	http://kk.rks-gov.net/partesh/Home.aspx

NENAD CETKOVIÇ (SLS)

DRAGAN NIKOLIĆ (G.I.S)

ŠOŠIĆ OBRAD (N.I)

Leposaviç

Area	750 km ²
Number of residents	18,900
Members of municipality assembly	31
Budged for 2013	http://kk.rks-gov.net/leposaviç/

DRAGIŠA KRSTOVIÇ (SLS)

DRAGAN JABLANOVIĆ (G.I.S)

SLADJAN OSTIĆ (GIZ)

Northern Mitrovica

Area	-
Number of residents	Around 20,000
Members of municipality assembly	-
Website	http://kk.rks-gov.net/mnao/thecity.aspx

KRSTIMIR PANTIĆ (G.I.S)

AGIM DEVA (PDK)

ADRIJANA HODŽIĆ (INDIPENDANT CANDIDATE)

OLIVER IVANOVIĆ (GI SDP- OLIVER IVANOVIĆ)

DIMITRIJE JANIĆIJEVIĆ (SLS)

(All the information's about the candidates-names and parties where taken from official web-site of Central Election Commision: <http://www.kqz-ks.org/sq/lajme/Details/102> - lately checked on 16.10.2013).

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Short information's about the author's

Muhamet Brajshori

was born on 26/12/1988 in Pristina and has a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from the University of Pristina. He has studied Political Science and International Politics at the University of Heidelberg (Germany), University of Turku (Finland) and University of Uppsala (Sweden). He has finished his MA studies and has conducted his Thesis for Master in Roads to Democracy-Interdisciplinary Programme in Political Science, History and Sociology at the University of Siegen (Germany). He has a Postgraduate Certificate in European Studies from the Centre International de Formation Europeenne-Berlin and a Diploma in Southeast Europe and the EU-Leadership Development Programme from the College of Europe (Belgium). He works since September 2009 as Correspondent for Western Balkans and Turkey at Southeast European Times and SES Türkiye, while in the past has worked for World Bank Office in Kosovo, USAID-Business Enabling Environment Program and Balkan Policy Institute-IPOL in various positions.

He has been scholarship by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung on his master studies on Germany. In 2010 he was awarded by EU Commission on Enlargement and Neighborhood Policy with the 'European Young Journalist Award 2010' from Kosovo. Email: mbrajshori@hotmail.com

Granit Tërnavë

was born on 03/07/1988 in Prishtina. He has completed Political Science at the University of Pristina and is now working on his master thesis on the program for Civil Society and Local Development. He has been part of various organizations in the field of youth organizations and local governments such as the Association of Kosovo Municipalities, Youth for Youth Centre in Fushë Kosovo etc. He has attended various seminars in Kosovo and outside the scope of the European integration, Negotiation, Conflict Management and building a democratic society, ethnic and religious communication. Believes that the sound fundamentals of a society built on trust and teamwork and is highly related to the field of local development and local governance. Has successfully promoted the School for European Integration, a serious program organized by the Kosovo Civil Society Foundation. Has completed the Political School of Pristina where he was part of a working group to draft a policy analysis for anti-smoking policies in Kosovo. He is also an alumni of the scholarship – program of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Kosovo.

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