



OSCE Mission in Kosovo Fact Sheet

2013

INTRODUCTION

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The Mission mandate includes human rights, rule of law and good governance promotion. To assist the development of a democratic and a multi-ethnic society in Kosovo where the rights of all communities are protected, the Mission has initially helped create and develop a number of necessary institutions. Examples include the Assembly of Kosovo, municipal administrations, the Ombudsperson, the judicial institute, the Central Election Commission, the public broadcaster, media regulators, the police school

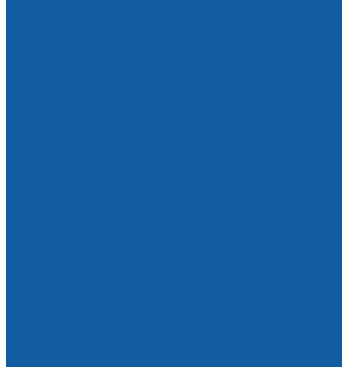
and the police inspectorate. In line with the OSCE's status-neutral position, the Mission now continues to support these institutions by monitoring their work for compliance with human rights standards and good governance principles, and by providing advice and training to address observed shortcomings.

With staff present in municipalities, the Assembly of Kosovo, and a number of independent public institutions, the Mission promotes mutual respect and tolerance among all communities and the establishment of a viable multi-ethnic society. The reconfiguration of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo increased the significance of the unique OSCE field presence, especially in the area of monitoring and protecting the rights of communities.

After more than ten years of work, the Mission has established good working relations with all communities and local institutions, and is one of the key interlocutors for communities, institutions and international organizations. The Mission's field teams and specialized sections dealing with property, good governance, communities, judicial and police issues keep the international community abreast of developments and assist in effecting positive change.

Activities

The OSCE Mission is engaged in three main areas: human rights, democratization and public safety. The Mission works with central and municipal institutions in Kosovo, as well as with independent institutions, in each of these fields. It monitors the work of the institutions and provides advice on how to improve their performance and better serve the people.



Human rights protection

Protection and promotion of human rights in Kosovo is one of the Mission's key priorities. It requires a functioning judicial system and effective human rights protection mechanisms. Therefore, the Mission works with Kosovo institutions, including the law enforcement agencies, to promote their compliance with international human rights standards and rule of law principles.

The Mission pays special attention to community rights, including property restitution, returns and reintegration, protection of cultural and religious heritage, as well as access to public services and the use of official languages. The Mission's field structure with five regional centres and over 30 field teams makes the OSCE unique in this regard and enables effective monitoring and reporting. Furthermore, the Mission's regional communities teams serve as a bridge between different ethnic groups and facilitate dialogue between the communities and the institutions.

To ensure sustainable and institutionalized human rights protection, the Mission has helped establish and now supports the work of the Ombudsperson Institution which among other investigates alleged human rights violations and provides legal services.

In an effort to prevent human rights violations at an early stage, the Mission provides advice and supports local actors who review laws and secondary legislation for compliance with human rights standards, including the Assembly of Kosovo Committee on Human Rights, Gender Issues, Missing Persons and Petitions, and the Assembly Committee on the Rights and Interests of Communities and Return.

The Mission is a key international actor in monitoring the judiciary in Kosovo. For more than ten years, the OSCE has monitored the work of criminal and civil courts for human and community rights compliance. The Mission issues thematic reports which provide concrete recommendations on how to improve court proceedings and bring them in line with international standards. The reports are shared with the judicial system in Kosovo and are used by the OSCE-

established Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI) to further develop the training for new and sitting judges and prosecutors.

Furthermore, the Mission monitors the work of the police for human and community rights compliance. The Mission shares with the police its reports on identified human rights concerns, such as the use of force, the rights of arrested persons, security issues affecting communities, protection of socially vulnerable groups, and hate crimes. These reports are helping the police to address the shortcomings. The Mission also supports the development of a sustainable local detention monitoring mechanism to help prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Mission is undertaking efforts to help fight discrimination. It supports Kosovo institution in improving and implementing anti-discrimination legislation, it promotes inter-faith dialogue and acceptance of diversity, and assists civil society and media organization in taking a proactive role in monitoring and reporting on freedom of expression and hate speech.

In addition, the Mission works to help fight trafficking in human beings, prevent domestic violence and to improve victim protection and reintegration by improving co-operation between all relevant actors including line ministries, police, victim advocates and shelter providers.

Democratization and good governance

Institution building and further democratic development remain principle pillars of the Mission's mandate. In this regard, the Mission monitors the performance of democratic institutions, identifies shortcomings in their work and recommends and helps implement relevant remedial activities.

The OSCE has been assisting the Assembly of Kosovo since its inception in 2001. Following a period of legislative capacity development, the Mission is now focused on enhancing the Assembly's executive oversight capabilities such



as monitoring the implementation of legislation. The Mission further works to help ensure that the Assembly procedures are respected and that all Assembly bodies, the Presidency and the committees in particular, are operational and transparent, in accordance with international standards and principles of good governance. As a result of the Mission's involvement, the Assembly has introduced government question time, public hearings, inquiries, and policy debates. The Mission has also supported selected Assembly committees in drafting annual work plans and in reviewing draft legislation, to help ensure that they meet international human rights standards. The Mission works to strengthen Assembly groups representing non-Albanian communities, and promotes the inclusion of civil society groups and the general public in the legislative process. The OSCE supports the participation of women and young people in decision-making processes through the Assembly women and youth caucuses and the youth action councils at central and local levels.

The Mission helped establish and continues to support the independent institutions' reporting to the Assembly of Kosovo. These include the Ombudsperson Institution, the Independent Oversight Board for Civil Service of Kosovo and the Independent Media Commission. The Mission assists these institutions by building their operational capacities and safeguarding their independence from undue political influence.

Between 2000 and 2007, the OSCE helped organized five elections in Kosovo and has established local election institutions, primarily the Central Election Commission and its Secretariat. As of 2008 the Mission provided non-executive technical advice to election institutions, including Electoral Appeals and Complaints Panel and supports the election reform process. In May 2012, the Mission facilitated two rounds of balloting for the Serbian presidential and parliamentary elections for the eligible voters in Kosovo.

At the municipal level, the Mission monitors and supports the work of local institutions in order to improve services offered to all communities and

to facilitate local governance reform, in line with the European Charter of Local Self-Government. The Mission helps municipal assemblies and their committees to exercise effective oversight of the municipal executive and to improve the quality of their legal acts. In an effort to increase transparency and public participation in decision-making, the Mission supports local consultative committees, women caucuses, youth representative bodies, and civil society initiatives, and advocates for their involvement in public life.

The Mission promotes best practice exchange between municipalities in the areas of performance, resources management and remedies for municipal non-compliance with administrative rules and regulations, i.e. administrative justice. In addition, the Mission continues to provide a forum for a structured dialogue between central and local institutions on a number of areas crucial to the success of local government reform.

Since its establishment, the Mission has supported media development. It has helped establish the public broadcaster, Radio Television of Kosovo; regulatory bodies for broadcast and print media, Independent Media Commission and Press Council respectively; and the Kosovo Media Institute, a mid-career training centre for the journalists. The Mission continues to support public institutions in securing the independent functioning of the media and media regulatory bodies through staff training, legislative review and provision of recommendations in line with international best practices.

In the field of higher education, the Mission supports public universities in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica and Prizren to align with European higher education standards. The Mission has established and supports the activities of the Career Centre and the Youth Empowerment Support Centre, as well as the creation of student clubs and societies at the university in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë. The Mission support provided to the university in Prizren focuses on future teacher education and in-service teacher training.



Security and public safety

The OSCE Mission has an active role in strengthening the security and public safety sector in Kosovo. It helps build capacities and improve law enforcement strategies, including the implementation of the intelligence-led policing concept.

One of the initial tasks of the OSCE Mission, in 1999, was to establish a police school that would train a new multi-ethnic police service in Kosovo. As the police school's training capacity grew, it also started providing training to other public safety institutions, including corrections, and fire and rescue services.

In 2006, the school evolved into the Kosovo Centre for Public Safety Education and Development - Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) since 2011 – while the managerial responsibility was handed over to local institutions in 2008. However, the Mission still provides specialized training to law enforcement agencies on combating organized crime, including money laundering, trafficking in human beings and drug smuggling and is helping them improve and implement their strategies. It also supports KAPS in defining its development vision and becoming a certified higher education institution in line with the European Qualification Framework and Bologna criteria.

The Mission supports the establishment and the work of the Local Public Safety Councils that bring together residents, police and municipal representatives to discuss and address their safety concerns and improve living conditions and inter-ethnic relations. The Mission helps raise public safety awareness through outreach activities, ranging from school lectures to information campaigns.

Since the public trust in the work of the police is crucial to stability in Kosovo, the Mission has helped to establish the Police Inspectorate of Kosovo, which is there to ensure the application of good governance practices within the Kosovo police, conduct internal oversight, and investigate complaints against police officers. Following seven years of support, the Inspectorate has become a professional and sustainable institution. The Mission thus seized its direct programmatic support to the institution in late 2012.

Facts and figures

Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger of France has been the Head of the OSCE Mission in Kosovo since 1 October 2012. The Mission has three programmatic departments: Human Rights and Communities, Democratization, and Security and Public Safety. Its field presence includes five regional centres - Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/Priština and Prizren - as well as more than 30 field teams covering municipalities throughout Kosovo. The Mission budget for 2013 is 20,512,800 Euros and the staffing table includes 603 posts; 166 international and 437 local staff. Almost half of the Mission's staff works in the field.

The mandate of the Mission, outlined in UN Security Council Resolution 1244 and the OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 305 from 1 July 1999, gives the Mission a “lead role in matters relating to institution- and democracy-building and human rights”.

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