



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
MISSION IN KOSOVO
Democratisation

Municipal Profile:

Dragas/Dragash

29 March 2000



Map of Kosovo, produced by the HCIC GIS Unit March 2000.
Boundaries or place names do not imply official recognition by UNMIK or the OSCE.

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Appendix: Map of the Municipality

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1. Introduction

Dragas/Dragash municipality is located in the southernmost part of Kosovo, approximately 22 km Southwest of Prizren. It borders the municipality of Prizren in the North as well as Albania in the West and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the South and East. The mountain ranges in the west, south and east reach altitudes of more than 2500 meters above sea level. The municipal capital Dragas(h) is situated at an altitude of 1050 meters. From the municipal capital there is a main road to Prizren (36 km) and roads to the towns of Restelica (24 km) and Brod (12 km). In winter times, Restelica, Brod, Zapluxhe and Plajnik (and the villages along these two roads) are very difficult to reach.

Dragas(h) municipality covers an area of 434 sq. km and contains 36 villages. The municipality consists of two regions, the Gora area, which covers most of the municipality and is inhabited mainly by Goranis, and the Opoja area, which is located in the Northeast of the municipality and is mainly inhabited by Kosovo Albanians.¹ Dragas(h) town serves as the cultural and administrative centre for both Gora and Opoja.

The population of the municipality is about 35,000, with 84 inhabitants per sq. km and the highest birth rate in Kosovo.² About two-thirds of the municipal population is Kosovo Albanian and one third is Gorani. In general the Gorani community defines its language as 'Goranian', which is a mixture of Macedonian, Turkish, Bosnian, and Serbian. Some villages, however, prefer to define their language as 'Bosnian', 'Serbian', or 'Nasinski' (which means 'our language') depending on political preferences.

There has always been a fluctuation of the population as the men left for economical reasons while their families stayed behind. Today most men live with their families, especially in the Gora area. Both Gora and Opoja are almost entirely 'ethnically pure' (Goranis vs. Kosovo Albanians), although the population in the centre of Dragas(h) is ethnically mixed.

Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs³

Population	K-Albanians		Goranis		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1991	22.802	59%	16.112	41%	38.914	100%
March 1999	27.633	61%	17.470	39%	45.103	100%
May 1999	25.383	67%	12.386	33%	37.769	100%
March 2000	24.856	72%	9.706	28%	34.562	100%

Source: For 1991: Census data, Federal Office of Statistics in Serbia, For March 1999: UNHCR Kosovo Village List, For May 1999: Administration Department of the Municipality of Dragas(h), for March 2000: OSCE Field Office Dragas(h) for Gora side, CRS statistics for Opoja side.

The table displays the large outflow of Goranis from the area since 1991, and especially since the end of the war. This is mainly due to security concerns, since Goranis have been accused by Kosovo Albanians of siding with the Kosovo Serbs, and to economic concerns, partly related to the lack of freedom of movement that results from the Gorani's security situation. Finally, a small number of refugees from Bosnia (about 100 families) reside within the Gora area, although there is no significant presence of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the municipality.

¹ This report is based on the pre-1991 boundaries, which are expected to be accepted as the official boundaries by UNMIK in the very near future. Dragas(h) was in 1991 divided by Yugoslav authorities, who included the Opoja region within Prizren municipality, and named the remainder 'Gora Municipality'.

² Regional Bureau of Statistics 1982:14

³ Please note that these numbers are subject to change and drawn on different sources.

2. Civil Administration

The Municipal Council was inaugurated on 9th February 2000. Within this political body Goranis have obtained five seats out of 16. The Kosovo Albanians are mainly represented by Hashim Thaci's Party of Democratic Progress in Kosovo (PPDK) and Ibrahim Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK).

Table 2.1: UN-Appointed Municipal Council⁴

Name	Function	Party-affiliation	Ethnicity/Nationality
Marek Kasprzyk	UN Municipal Administrator	none	Polish
Sadik Idrizi	Member of Executive Board of SDA Dragas(h)	SDA	Gorani
Mushka Fazlian	President of SDA Dragas(h)	SDA	Gorani
Nihad Osmani	Member of Executive Board of SDA Dragas(h)	SDA	Gorani
Mitat Fejza	President of PPDK Dragas(h)	PPDK	Kosovo Albanian (KA)
Ibrahim Skenderi	Member	PPDK	KA
Refki Skenderi	Member	PPDK	KA
Halim Shemsidini	Member	LDK	KA
Shaban Halimi	Member	LDK	KA
Mehmet Spahiu	Member	LDK	KA
Fari Piraj	Member	LBD	KA
Aljija Demiri	Member	DAS	Gorani
Vajdin Tahiri	Member	PBK	KA
Agim Rexhepi	Islamic Community	None	KA
Luljeta Kryeziu	Women-Independent Candidate	None	KA
Emina Kurteshi	Women-Independent Candidate	None	KA
Hamza Uzair	Independent Candidate from Gora side	(member of SDA)	Gorani

The Administrative Board in the Municipality was inaugurated on 26th January 2000 and was given a temporary 90-day mandate. There are a total of nine directorates, all of which are chaired by Kosovo Albanians, which has led to dissatisfaction among the Gorani population. However, one Vice President of the Administrative Board is Gorani, representing the Party of Democratic Action (SDA). There is also dissatisfaction among some Kosovo Albanians, which complain about the dominance of PPDK on the Administrative Board.

Table 2.2: UN-Appointed Municipal Administrative Board

Name	Function	Party-affiliation	Ethnicity/Nat.
Marek Kasprzyk	UN Municipal Administrator	None	Polish
Hajriz Meleqi	President of Administrative Board	None officially	KA
Irfan Ibrahim	Vice President of Administrative Board	SDA	Gorani
Nexhmudin Asllani	Vice President of Administrative Board	PPDK	KA
Beqir Rashiti	Director of Gen. Adm., Budget, Transport, Post, and Communications	None officially	KA
Avni Nebiu	Director of Economy & Finance & Business & Commerce	PPDK	KA
Nuriman Tershnjaku	Director of Health & Social Welfare	LBD	KA
Salajdin Tafili	Director of Science & Culture & Youth & Sport	LDK	KA
Muharem Sejrani	Director of Education & Democratisation & Media Development	PPDK	KA
Hasan Dishallari	Director of Development & Planning & Environmental Protection	PPDK	KA
Hyrjet Sinani	Director of Urbanism & Communal Operations	None Officially	KA
Mensur Halili	Director of Geodesy & Cadastre	PPDK	KA
Tafil Krasniqi	Director of Civil Emergency & Relief	PPDK	KA

The UN Civil Administration (UNCA) has folded most of the previous PPDK-dominated “self-styled” government structures into the new municipal structure that followed the 15 December Agreement on a Kosovo-UNMIK Joint Interim Administrative Structure, which was agreed to on provincial level.

⁴ See table 3.1 for an explanation of acronyms.

3. Political Parties

Although a multiparty political system is developing in Dragas(h), a post-war political culture is still present. Basic to this culture is a difficulty to stray from hard-line policies (e.g. ex-Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) within Gora and National Conservative/Frontal Party of Kosovo (PBK) within Opoja side) as well as a persisting inability to critically examine one's own society. To move away from established principles or openly to criticise policies or approaches could be viewed as betrayal.

The LDK, which has been present also in Dragas(h) during the last decade as a national movement, holds some support among the Kosovo Albanian population, although the exact level of support is difficult to know until elections have been held. The PPDK established much support when it was dominating the former 'self-styled' municipal government, and still seems to hold some of this popularity. Among these two parties, the LDK seems to have the most support among the Kosovo Albanian population.

The Gorani side is characterised by a lack of unity. Some Goranis support the Party of Democratic Action (SDA), which has its roots in the Muslim community of Bosnia and is focused largely on ensuring that the Bosnian language will be valid also in the future. Although there is support for the SDA in some villages, some people in other villages still support policies and political parties linked with current Belgrade politics, such as Milosevic's Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS), and the opposition Serb Renewal Movement (SPO). There is a third group of Goranis that does not actively support any of the above parties but instead seems to be looking for another alternative.

Table 3.1: Political Parties

Party	Regional Party Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
LDK (Democratic League of Kosovo)	Halim Shemsidini	Ibrahim Rugova
PPDK (Party of Democratic Progress in Kosovo)	Mitat Fejza	Hashim Thaqi
LBD (United Democratic Movement)	Nesim Miftari	Rexhep Qosja
PBK (National Conservative/Frontal Party of Kosovo)	Xhevdet Tahiri	(To be announced)
SDA (Party of Democratic Action)	Mushka Fazlian	Numan Balic
DAS (Democratic Amin Party)	Alija Demiri	Alija Demiri

4. Local and International NGOs

There are three local NGOs based in the municipality, two of which are humanitarian in nature (Mother Theresa Society and Handikos) and one of which focuses on women's issues (Flaqa). Handikos is especially concerned with the welfare of handicapped people in the municipality.

Table 4.1: Local NGOs working in the municipality

Name	Main focus	Regional Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
Handikos	Humanitarian	Bexhet Xheladini	Agim Terpunj -Prizren
Mother Theresa Society	Humanitarian	Fadil Rashiti	Don Lush Gjergji
Flaqa	Women's progress	Sabahete Kurtishi	Sabahete Kurtishi

The international NGOs working in Dragas(h) are mainly based in Prizren or Pristina, with the exception of the Balkan Peace Team that is in the process of opening its office.

Table 4.2: International NGOs working in the municipality

Name	Main focus	Authorised Representative
CRS (Catholic Relief Service)	Food distribution	Kathleen Moynihan
ACT (Action of Church Together)	Humanitarian	Hoyer Thorkild
BPT (Balkan Peace Team)	Peace building	Alan Jones
World Vision	Psychosocial support	Stuart Charles Willcuts
MSF (Medecines Sans Frontiers)	Medicine	Phillippe Rosen
MCIC(Macedonian Centre for International Co-operation)	Humanitarian	Aleksandar Krzalovski
ICMC (International Catholic Migration Commission)	Humanitarian	Dale Buscher
ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)	Humanitarian	Alain Koli
Handicap International France	Humanitarian	Driton Ukmata
PSF (Pharmacists Sans Frontiers)	Medicine	Bruno Rotival
ICS (Italian Consortium of Solidarity)	Educational	Raffaella Bolini

5. Other Civilian International Presence

UN Civil Administration (UNCA), along with the UN Municipal Administrator, arrived in August 1999. There are currently three Municipal Officers and three United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) working for the UNCA.

The OSCE field office became operational in October 1999 and currently consists of four international staff members and 21 local staff members. Though the UNHCR is covering Dragas(h) they are not based in the municipality, and the UNMIK 'EU pillar' is also not based in the municipality. However, the European Commission Monitoring Mission (ECMM), which is separate from the EU pillar, monitors the general situation in the municipality although it is not based there. Other organisations and agencies are also frequently in the area.

Table 5.1: The Four Pillars

Name	Number of staff (nat.+int.)	Contact Person	Title	Contact Number
UN Civil Adm.	6 Internationals, 2 nationals	Marek Kasprzyk	UN Administrator	N/A
OSCE	4 Internationals , 21 Nationals	Levan Gogoberidze	HO Field Office	00871762138688
UNHCR	Not yet based in Dragas(h)	-	-	-
EU	Not yet based in Dragas(h)	-	-	-

Table 5.2: Other International Organisations and Agencies

Name	Number of staff (nat.+int.)	Contact Person	Title	Contact Number
ECMM	N/A	Wolfgang Obermueller	Team Leader	003812923933

6. Religion, Places of Worship, and Cultural Institutions

Both the Goranis and the Kosovo Albanians in the municipality are of the Islamic faith. Due to an insufficient number of imams, one Kosovo Albanian imam is based in a Gorani village (Brod). In Dragas(h) town the attendance at the mosque includes both ethnicities. It seems that the Islamic Community has managed to keep the two ethnic groups together despite the division at the political level. The imams are generally not actively engaged in current issues. Though the president of the Islamic Community is a member of the municipal council, there are no overt signs of political influence within the religious community.

Table 6.1: Main Religious Leaders

Name	Religious Organisation
Agim Rexhepi	Islamic Community of Dragas(h)
Nailj Halimi	Islamic Community of Dragas(h)
Dzafer Fejziu	Islamic Community of Dragas(h)

Source: Islamic Community of Dragas(h)

There are 39 mosques in Dragas(h) municipality, none of which were destroyed during the war. There are about an equal number of mosques in the Gora and Opoja areas respectively.

Table 6.2: Major Mosques, Churches, etc.

Name and Place	Type of Building (Mosque, Orth. Church...)
Dragas(h) centre, 20 mosques in Gora, 19 in Opoja	Mosques

Source: Islamic Community of Dragas(h)

The only existing cultural/community centre has been established by an Italian NGO within the Opoja area, and the Balkan Peace Team, another international NGO, is planning a cultural/community centre in Dragas(h) town. Otherwise, the process of reviving pre-war cultural institutions is still on-going. A literary club, 'Luigi Gurakuqi', is present in the Opoja area, but is not very active due to financial constraints.

7. Media

There are no local daily newspapers, although a periodical Kosovo Albanian newspaper, 'Sharri', is produced by the literary club 'Luigi Gurakuqi'. There are about six editions a year although the intention has been to have it be a monthly newspaper. No TV station exists. There is a local radio, also named 'Sharri', which is not working these days, since the transmitter is not functioning. Efforts are on-going towards solving the technical and ownership problems of the radio station, which used to have a one and one-half hour daily broadcast in the Goranian language. There are currently some signs that the PPK is trying to control the radio station.

There is only one correspondent in the municipality, who is based in the town of Shajne and writes for the Rilindja newspaper in Pristina.

Table 7.1: List of Major Newspaper, TV/Radio Stations, etc.

Name of media	Type of Media	Editor/Correspondent	Ethnic Affiliation
Radio Sharri	Radio	Director Chamil Kolloni	Kosovo Albanian
Rilindja	Newspapers	Correspondent Azbi Halili	Kosovo Albanian

8. Judicial System

The Municipal Court and the Minor Offences Court were put in place by UNMIK on 1st January 2000 and all judges were given a mandate for one year. The letters of appointment were issued at an official ceremony held on 20th January. Since January, the number of cases processed within the Municipal Court have been around 15-20.

The volume of cases within the Minor Offences Court since January has been approximately 50. There still seems to be some confusion with regard to the issuing of fines.

When UNMIK police makes arrests, detainees are taken to Prizren to a regional jail.

Table 8.1: List of Judges

Name	Title	Ethnicity
Sefidin Bajraktari	President of Municipal Court	Kosovo Albanian
Naim Kurtishi	Judge at the Municipal Court	Kosovo Albanian
Fahri Tershnjaku	Judge at the Municipal Court	Kosovo Albanian
Hamed Ferati	Judge at the Municipal Court	Muslim – Prizren
Beqri Vehapi	Judge at the Minor Offences Court	Kosovo Albanian
Sabahete Kurtishi	Judge at the Minor Offences Court	Kosovo Albanian

Source: Municipal Court in Dragas(h)

9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

A permanent Turkish KFOR checkpoint is located at the entry of Dragas(h) town. Random checks are made, causing little delay. Recurring manned roadblocks are enacted at the junction to the town of Brezna. Turkish KFOR is generally well respected in the community, but the number of soldiers has been reduced from 300-350 to 200. They have excellent cooperation with UNMIK Police, which is still regarded as being understaffed. Some shop owners still complain about being asked for 'voluntary citizens contributions' from members of the illegal Policia Ushtarake (Kosovo Liberation Army Police).

The Kosovo Protection Corps (TMK), which plays an active role in the community, is based only in the Opoja side in the village of Zym, after having been requested by UN Civil Police and Turkish KFOR to leave Dragas(h) town.

Table 9.1: Police and Military Presence

Name	Local Commander	Number of Police Officers, Soldiers, etc.	Ethnic Composition, Nationality
KPS	Gerhard Wittig – Station Commander of UNMIK Police	1	Kosovo Albanian
UN Civil Police	Gerhard Wittig	38	International
TMK	Ruzhdi Saramati	52	Kosovo Albanian
KFOR	Umit Oz	200	Turkish

Source: KFOR, and UNMIK Police in Dragas(h)

10. Economics

The economic situation is dominated by a high unemployment rate. About 28% of employees within the local economy in the municipality are Goranis and about 72% are Kosovo Albanian. All major local companies were formerly state-run and UNMIK is currently resolving ownership issues through a 'Commission of Entrepreneurs', which was established by the Municipal Council. None of these companies are currently operating at full capacity. Dratex for instance, a textile manufacturer, had more than 600 employees in the early 1990's, but currently employs only 86 people. Similarly, Shar Prodimi, a grocer's chain and sheep breeding company, used to employ 230 people, but now only employs 62. The latter company has recently received 30,000 DM in financial support from UNMIK to help the company to recover from current difficulties. There are many smaller shops in the town of Dragas(h), but none have officially registered yet with the UN.

All former state-owned enterprises have delivered business plans to UNMIK, which, through its pillar for Economic Reconstruction led by the European Union, hopes to revive the local economy. No income generating projects exist as of now, but UNMIK is aiming to implement micro-credit schemes in the municipality to support small-scale enterprises.

10.1 Major Employers in the Region

Employer	Service/Products	Production on going?	Number of Workforce
Dratex – state owned	Textile	Yes	86 (82 KA, 3 G, 1 S)
Shar Prodimi – state owned	Grocer's chain/sheep breeding company	Yes	62 (41 KA, 21 G)
Koritnik - state owned	Trade - Restaurants	Yes	37 (21KA, 16 G)
Economia Pyjore –state owned	Forest company	Yes	29 (18 KA, 11 G)
Komunalno – state owned	Public Utilities	Yes	32 (25 KA, 7 G)

Source: Department of Economy, Finance, Business, and Commerce in Dragas(h).

11. Infrastructure

The municipality is mountainous and therefore has infrastructure problems related to terrain, e.g. with regard to access. This part of Kosovo did not suffer much damage during the war and therefore most of the infrastructure is intact with the exception of a few damaged buildings. The urgent need in this municipality is not re-construction of infrastructure damaged by the war, but improving the existing infrastructure which is in a state of disrepair and inadequate for the population. The region has been suffering from permanent infrastructure problems for a long time, due to a low-investment policy and negligence.

Opoja is an area with relatively small war damages. There are around 45 houses, which have been destroyed. These houses have mainly been rebuilt by the local population, with the help of an international NGO, Action of Churches Together (ACT), which provided reconstruction material. Electricity is supplied partly by a hydroelectric plant in Dikance.

Travel between villages is still frequently by foot or horse-drawn wagon, and many roads in the municipality are not paved, especially in the Opoja region. A lack of bus connections to the villages contributes to the restricted movement, especially for Goranis. A 15-km trip by taxi costs 10-15 DM, which is unaffordable for most, especially those that have lost their source of income.

Due to poor agricultural resources and relative geographical isolation, Dragas(h) has been one of the most underdeveloped regions of Kosovo.

12. Social Services, Health, and Education

UNMIK started an Emergency Assistance Financial Program last November to assist individuals falling under three categories: pensioners over 70, single parent households, and persons with disabilities. In total 657.000 DM has been paid to more than 2500 beneficiaries. A Centre for Social Welfare is expected to be opened on 8th May 2000. The director of Centre for Social Welfare will be Mr. Zahadin Lekaj, an LDK member who was appointed by UNMIK on 29th March 2000.

The Health Centre in addition to its main building has 12 clinics (ambulantas) within both Opoja and Gora. These clinics generally have one paediatrician, two general practitioners, 2 dentists, and some medical nurses. The director of the Health Centre, Mr. Fehmi Bojaxhiu, is a gynaecologist and belongs to LDK party. The total number of employees in the Health Centre and the clinics is 115, which includes 28 doctors (17 KA and 11 G) and 63 medical technician (47KA and 16 G) and 24 others (15 KA and 9G). Thus, the staff of the Health Centre and the clinics is about 69% Kosovo Albanian and 31% Gorani, which roughly corresponds to the two communities' share of the municipal population at the end of the war. The gender structure in the Health Centre and its clinics is 23 female and 92 male. Salaries are paid by UNMIK in the range of 150 – 600DM since January 2000. The main problems of the Health Centre include lack of an efficient salary system, lack of medicine, obsolete equipment, and lack of on-the-job training of its personnel. The German organisation Die Johaniter has donated one van to the Bresane clinic and renovated it completely, and help has also been received from the German KFOR, UNHCR, and Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

Though all villages now have their own elementary schools, which are attended by a total of 5,424 students in 12 schools with 23 satellite branches, the only high school is in Dragas(h) town. The high school is ethnically mixed and the curriculum is in two languages (Albanian and Bosnian). The total number of students is 855. In terms of ethnic composition, there are

about 85% Kosovo Albanian students and 15% Goranis. The gender situation is not very good, with 78% male students and 22% female students.

The total number of employees within the educational system of Dragas(h) is 456, including 59 high school teachers and 181 elementary school teachers (grade 5-8). The ethnic structure is 286 Kosovo Albanian (63%) and 170 (37%) Goranis. Salaries have been paid by UNMIK since January 2000. The salaries range from 150 – 390DM. The main issues of concern at the moment are the salaries, which are not always paid in a timely manner, and the fact that teachers often have to teach different educational levels within the same classroom, due to the small number of students in some remote villages.

Source: UNCA Dragas(h), Municipality of Dragas(h), Department of Education, Media, and Democratisation, Department of Health and Social Service.