



SUPPLEMENTARY

REPORT ON THE
LOCAL ELECTIONS 2013
IN KOSOVO



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Stiftung

After the publication of the Handbook for Local Elections in Kosovo, Konrad Adenauer Foundation presents report about the results of the elections, the participation of the voters, smooth running of the electoral process as well as media coverage of local elections in Kosovo.

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www.kas.de/kosovo

Local elections in Kosovo
Final Results

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List of Abbreviations

- PDK** - Democratic Party of Kosovo
- LDK** – Democratic League of Kosovo
- AAK** – Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
- AKR**- New Kosovo Alliance
- VV** – Self- Determination Movement
- GIS** – Serbian Citizens Initiative
- SLS**- Independent Liberal Party
- PD**- Justice Party
- LB** – Movement for Unity
- PSHDK**- Albanian Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo
- OSCE** - Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- RTK** – Kosovo’s Radio and Television, public broadcast of Kosovo
- TV21**- Private Television in Kosovo
- Klan Kosova**- Private Television in Kosovo
- DW**- Deutsche Welle, German international broadcast
- BBC**- British Broadcasting Corporation
- KFOR** – NATO Forces in Kosovo

Following the last held elections which gave rise to suspicions of fraud and talk of inaccuracies, and were disputed to a great extent, Kosovo had to face a very important test of organizing orderly and free elections, which are a required standard of democracy and a key element in continuing the road towards European integration for Kosovo.¹ The conclusion of the April agreement in Brussels between the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Hashim Thaqi, and his Serbian counterpart Iвица Đacic, brought about a new and challenging situation for Kosovo, whereby the parallel structures operating in the country would incorporate with the Kosovo system, and for the first time take part in elections organized by Kosovo.²

It seems that the great domestic and international pressure to attain the required standard of elections was effective with political parties and institutions, which showed great political will and serious work providing thus elections that were praised by all, and which were within the required international standards³.

The election turnout was 46.31 %⁴ which is considered satisfactory compared to the turnout in the previous elections.

Though there were some cases of pressure recorded against public servants for participating in pre-election activities, the election campaign was mostly calm and without many incidents that would damage the image of the elections.⁵

¹International Require Elections without Manipulations, the article can be found at <http://gazetajnk.com/?cid=1,1070,6908> , last accessed on the 21.01.2014.

²Participation of Serbs in the north in the historic elections for Kosovo, the article can be found at <http://www.kosova.info/lajme/pjesemarrja-e-serbeve-te-veriut-ne-zgjedhje-historike-per-kosoven/> , last accessed on the 21.01.2014.

³ENEMO: Elections of international standards, the article can be found at <http://www.kosovapress.com/en/nacional/enemo-elections-of-international-standards-6876/> , last accessed on the 21.01.2014.

⁴ Local Elections in Kosovo, General statistics: http://www.kqz-ks.org/Uploads/Documents/1%20-%20Assembly%20-%20General%20Statistics_irmsvxfud.pdf , last accessed on the 21.01.2014.

⁵EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION (EU EOM): PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.

Taking into consideration the specific conditions in the four northern municipalities, the administrative preparations for municipal elections were different throughout Kosovo. In most of the municipalities, the technical preparations appear to have been conducted without any significant obstacles. However, the inclusion of the Serbian population in the north and of the displaced Serbs raised many complex and politically sensitive issues which had to be addressed by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo as part of its facilitating role. Elections were administered by the election administration at three levels, which was mainly comprised by the representatives of the bigger political parties. While the CEC is a permanent body, 38 MECs and about 2,400 PSCs were appointed for these elections only. The appointed CEC Chairperson comes from the ranks of the Supreme Court judges. The ten members of the CEC were appointed from the six largest parliamentary groups in the Kosovo Assembly, four of whom represent the minority communities. Despite the claims that the CEC is much politicized, members of the CEC appeared to work in a collegial manner during the period of the EU EOM activities. The preparations for the elections were centralized and the monitors reported that some MECs had criticized the level of support received from the CEC Secretariat. The MECs had different work practices. Some held frequent formal meetings, whilst others met informally and did not record any minutes. With the exception of those in the northern municipalities, the MECs were functional and enjoyed the trust of the main stakeholders in these elections.⁶

The Election Day was quiet in most of the Kosovo municipalities, except in Northern Mitrovica, where masked hooligans violently attacked some polling stations forcing the officials and international observers to leave the centers and the election materials behind.⁷ This criminal act was condemned by all the international and local stakeholders, while the elections were re-

peated in these polling stations before the 1st of December.

In general, the media provided to the political entities different opportunities to convey their messages to the electorate, and provided the voters with lots of information so they could make an informed choice. The freedom of expression, a right guaranteed by the Constitution, was respected.

The campaign received considerable coverage in the national media, including through a large number of paid video ads and live broadcasts of gatherings, wide news coverage and many debates that were organized in various municipalities. The visual, and print media, and in particular the online media, paid specific attention to the campaign in Prishtina. However, other municipalities were also covered regularly by the media, while the coverage in the news editions depended largely on the presence of the political party leaders and not on the activities of the municipal candidates or local topics.

The Independent Media Commission (IMC), responsible for supervising the broadcasters during the campaign, received nine official complaints. The fact that the Commission is comprised of political appointees had an effect on its functioning. Two out of seven members were not appointed at all due to political disagreements, while two others were criticized of having participated in the election campaign.⁸

Most of the monitored media largely covered the more active political entities. The PDK was the most covered political party by the majority of the media in the Albanian language. In its news program, the public TV station RTK 1 demonstrated an obvious preference in presenting the PDK, and in particular its leader, Prime Minister Hashim Thaqi.⁹ The private TV station TV21 provided its viewers with a more balanced presentation of the candidates, while in some other media, like the national broadcaster KTV and Koha Ditore newspaper, the coverage of the PDK was associated with a tone of criti-

A positive step forward for democracy in Kosovo:
http://www.eueom.eu/files/pressreleases/other/preliminary-statement-in-kosovo-05112013_sq.pdf

⁶*Ibid.*

⁷*A voting centre in the north is attacked, 40 international escape, the article can be found at*
<http://koha.net/?page=1,13,164338> , last accessed on the 21.01.2014.

⁸EUROPEAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION (EU EOM): PRELIMINARY STATEMENT.

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⁹*Ibid.*

cism. Both channels also broadcasted very qualitative analytical debates. On the other hand, Klan Kosova was present in most of the municipalities by reporting live like the other TV stations, namely the RTK, RTV21 and KTV. However, when preliminary results were first announced by Democracy in Action, Klan Kosovo did not follow the updates related to the municipality of Gjakova. The newly elected Mayor of Gjakova criticized the failure to broadcast the news in time by the TV Klan Kosovo during a program led by the head of this TV station.

Whereas, of the two private TV stations in the Serbian language which were monitored, TV Most was partial in favor of the Serb Citizen Initiative. The RTK 2 public channel in Serbian language had a balanced coverage, including the debates of the candidates which represented the Serb, Montenegrin and Bosnian voters.¹⁰

In addition to the coverage by the local media, the election process also received coverage by international broadcasters like BBC and DW. Both of the news portals focused on the incident that occurred in Northern Mitrovica, with DW highlighting Ulrike Lunacek's report before the European Parliament that the local elections were better than those of 2010, and were held in a democratic spirit in the whole country, excluding only Northern Mitrovica.¹¹ In light of the fact that many municipalities had a second round of elections, including the Northern Mitrovica, again the focus of the international and local media was on the Serb majority municipalities. In a broadcasted media release, DW highlighted that the Kosovo Police, along with the international police and KFOR were in a state of readiness, and that Roberto Gualtieri, Head of the EU election observation mission, called the violence in the Serb municipalities a crime against human rights.¹²

Below, please find the local election results for Mayors and Municipal Assemblies.

¹⁰*Ibid.*

¹¹One more try for Kosovo elections, the article can be found at: <http://www.dw.de/one-more-try-for-kosovo-elections/a-17231027>, last accessed on the 21.01.2014.

¹²*Ibid.*

MUNICIPALITY	ELECTED MAYOR	POLITICAL PARTY
Deçan	Rasim Selmanaj	AAK
Gjakovë	Mimoza Kusari-Lila	AKR
Glllogovc	Nexhat Demaku	PDK
Gjilan	Lutfi Haziri	LDK
Dragash	Salim Januzi	PDK
Istog	Haki Rugova	LDK
Kaçanik	Besim Ilazi	PDK
Klinë	Sokol Bashota	PDK
Fushë-Kosovë	Burim Berisha	LDK
Kamenicë	Begzad Sinani	PDK
Mitrovicë e Jugut	Agim Bahtiri	AKR
Leposaviç	Dragan Jablanovic	G.I. SRBSKA
Lipjan	Imri Ahmeti	LDK
Novobërdë	Svetislav Ivanovic	G.I. SRBSKA
Obiliq	Xhafer Gashi	AAK
Rahovec	Idriz Vehapi	PDK
Pejë	Gazmend Muhaxheri	LDK
Podujevë	Agim Veliu	LDK
Prishtinë	Shpend Ahmeti	Lëvizja Vetëvendosje
Prizren	Ramadan Muja	PDK
Skenderaj	Sami Lushtaku	PDK
Shtime	Naim Ismajli	PDK
Shtërpcë	Branislav Nikolic	SLS
Suharekë	Sali Asllanaj	LDK

Ferizaj	Muharrem Svarqa	LDK
Viti	Sokol Haliti	LDK
Vushtrri	Bajram Mulaku	PDK
Zubin Potok	Stevan Vulovic	G.I. SRBSKA
Zvečan	Vucina Jankovic	G.I. SRBSKA
Malishevë	Ragip Begaj	IQM
Junik	Agron Kuçi	AAK
Mamushe	Arif Butuç	KTAP
Hani i Elezit	Rufki Suma	Independent Candidate
Gracanica	Branimir Stojanovic	G.I. SRBSKA
Ranilluk	Gradimir Mikic	G.I. SRBSKA
Partesh	Nenad Cvetkovic	G.I. SRBSKA
Klllokot	Srecko Spasic	G.I. SRBSKA
Mitrovica e Veriut	Goran Rakic	G.I. SRBSKA

MUNICIPALITY	Member(s) in the city councils	PDK	LDK	AAK	VV	AKR	GIS	SLS	Others
Deçan	27	3	9	13	2				
Gjakovë	35	6	4	9	2	9			5
Glllogovc	31	20	1	1	1	1			7
Gjilan	35	8	11	4	4	2			6
Dragash	27	8	7	2		1			9
Istog	27	12	4	6	1	1	1		2
Kaçanik	27	11	4	5	3	1			3
Klinë	27	9	5	5	1	1	1		5

Fushë-Kosovë	27	6	12	1	3	1	1		3
Kamenicë	27	7	8	4	1	4			3
Mitrovicë e Jugut	35	14	8	2	3	5			3
Leposaviç	19						8	2	9
Lipjan	31	10	9	5	2		1		4
Novobërdë	15	1	4				3	1	6
Obiliq	21	4	5	4	1		1		6
Rahovec	31	11	7	8	2	1			2
Pejë	35	6	10	10	2	1	1		5
Podujevë	35	12	15	3	3	1			1
Prishtinë	51	8	18	4	10	4	1		6
Prizren	41	10	9	3	3	1			15
Skenderaj	31	26	1	1	1	1			1
Shtime	21	10	5	2	2				2
Shtërpcë	15	2	1		1		6	5	
Suharekë	31	8	10	10		2			1
Ferizaj	41	14	13	5	4	2			3
Viti	27	6	9	5	5	1			1
Vushtrri	35	12	7	6	3	2	1		2
Zubin Potok	15	1	2				11		1
Zvečan	15	1	1				8		5
Malishevë	31	8	8	1	2	1			11
Junik	15	2	5	6	2				14
Mamushe		1							
Hani i Elezit	15	5	3	4	3				

Gracanica	19						9	3	7
Ranilluk	15						6	3	6
Partesh	15						3	6	6
Klllokot	15	2	1	1			4	5	2
Mitrovica e Veriut	19	3	1	1			6	1	7

Party	Number of Mayors out of 38 municipalities in total	Member(s) in the city councils
PDK	10	267
LDK	9	217
AAK	3	131
VV	1	67
AKR	2	43
GIS	9	72
SLS	1	26
Other political parties, entities, independent candidates (PD, LB, PSHDK, total:	3	169

The views expressed in this paper are the personal views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

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