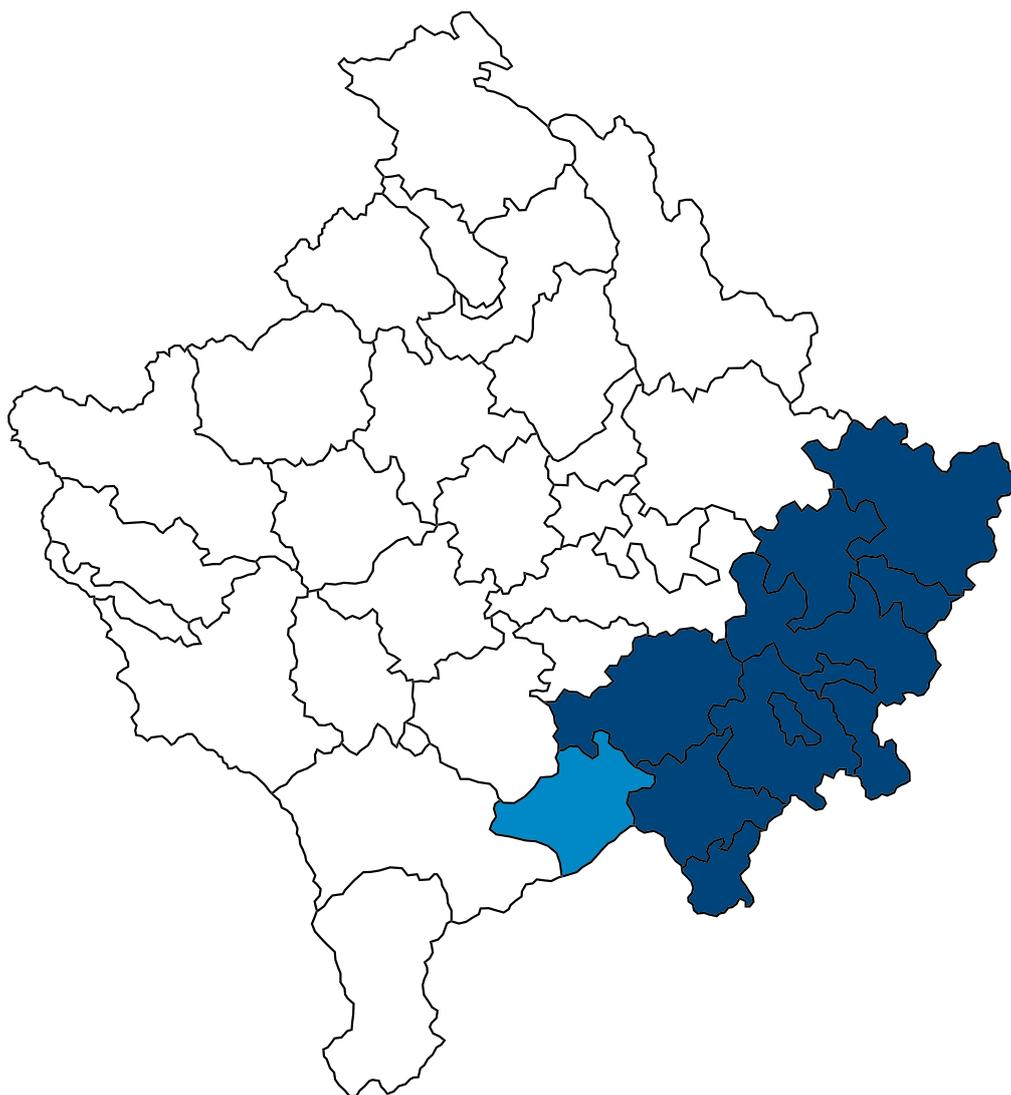


MUNICIPAL PROFILE 2018

GJILAN/GNJILANE REGION

ŠTRPCE/SHTËRPCË



ŠTRPCE/SHTËRPCË



247 km² area

16 villages

6,949 population

The OSCE regional centre Gjilan/Gnjilane covers 11 municipalities, including Štrpce/Shtërpçë, and has teams working in all of them.

AREA AND POPULATION



The municipality of Štrpce/Shtërpçë is located in the south-eastern part of Kosovo covering an area of approximately 247 km² and includes Štrpce/Shtërpçë town and 16 villages. According to the 2011 Kosovo Population and Housing Census, the total population is 6,949.

Ethnic composition

1. Kosovo Albanians	3,757
2. Kosovo Serbs	3,148
3. Kosovo Roma	24
4. Kosovo Bosniaks	2
5. Kosovo Ashkali	1
6. Other	7
7. Not specified	10

(source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics)

According to the census conducted in 1991*, there were 4,300 Kosovo Albanians, 8,138 Kosovo Serbs and 17 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality. There is no data from the census conducted in 1981, as Štrpce/Shtërpçë was not a separate municipality at that time.

According to the UNHCR statistics, 961 displaced persons have returned to the municipality since 1999, of them 517 Kosovo Serbs, one (1) Kosovo Roma and 443 Kosovo Albanians.

*The 1991 census is not accepted by Kosovo Albanians as legitimate.

GOVERNING STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL OVERVIEW

The total number of voters in Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality registered for the municipal elections held in October is 13,781¹, voters including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout was 57.22% or 7,886 voters (source: Central Election Commission).

The 2017 municipal assembly election results were as follows:

74.04%	SL Serbian List
12.98%	ISHS Albanian Initiative for Syrinikë
12.98%	PDK Democratic Party of Kosovo

The current seat distribution is as follows:

11 seats
2 seats
2 seats

1. The overall population figure presented above is taken from the 2011 census (or authoritative estimates where the census figure is not available), whereas the voters list is a reflection of all people with a civil registration entry in the municipality. In some cases, the voters list figure is higher than or similar to the overall population number due to insufficient updating of the civil registry or a significant proportion of people registered in the municipality but actually living elsewhere or abroad.

ŠTRPCE/SHTËRPCË

LEGISLATIVE



The Municipal Assembly has 15 seats distributed among three (3) political entities, 11 members are Kosovo Serb and four (4) are Kosovo Albanian; eight (8) are women. The Municipal Assembly Chairperson is Predrag Grbić (SL) and the Deputy Municipal Assembly Chairperson for Communities is Garip Sahiti (PDK)*.

*According to the Law on Local Self-Government, a municipality with more than ten (10) per cent of residents belonging to communities in numerical minority position in that municipality is required to appoint a deputy mayor for communities and a deputy municipal assembly chairperson for communities.

EXECUTIVE



Structure of municipal executive and the executive's political affiliations.

The municipality is headed by Mayor Bratislav Nikolić (SL), re-elected for his third term as mayor with 73.58% of votes in the first round of the 2017 municipal elections. In the 2013 municipal elections, Mayor Nikolić won with 56.25 % of votes in the second round. Deputy Mayor is Ivica Tanasijević (SL) and Deputy Mayor for Communities is Fikri Hasani (PDK).

There are eight (8) municipal departments. Seven (7) departments are run by men directors: general administration (PDK); budget and finance (SL); health and social welfare (LDK); emergency and public services (SL); education, youth, culture and sport (SL); planning, reconstruction and urban development (SL); and economic development, tourism, agriculture and forestry (SL), one (1) director is not yet appointed: geodesy, cadastre and property. In the previous mandate (2013-2017), all directors were men (source: municipal information officer).

JUDICIARY



The Basic Court of Ferizaj/Uroševac has a branch in Štrpce/Shtërpçë with two (2) judges, one (1) is Kosovo Bosniak and one (1) is Kosovo Gorani; one (1) woman and one (1) man.

The Ferizaj/Uroševac Basic Prosecutor's Office covers the municipality (source: Ferizaj/Uroševac Basic Court).

SECURITY PRESENCE



The Kosovo Police station in Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality has 61 police officers, 52 are Kosovo Serb and nine (9) are Kosovo Albanian; seven (7) are women.

As for the international military presence, US KFOR covers the area (source: Kosovo Police).

ECONOMY



The economy of Štrpce/Shtërpçë is predominantly based on agriculture, mainly raspberry production, tourism, and small businesses. The approximate number of registered private businesses is 167. There are no exact data on the number of employees in the private sector (source: municipal directorate of economic development, tourism, agriculture and forestry).

PUBLIC SERVICES

Infrastructure



The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality is assessed as good. All the main roads connecting villages with the urban centre are asphalted. Water supply and sewage systems are connected to the households in most of the villages. Since August 2009, power supply has been improved, as residents have started paying electricity bills (source: municipal directorate of planning, reconstruction, and urban development).

Health



The primary health care system currently includes one (1) municipal family health centre located in Štrpce/Shtërpçë town and seven (7) health houses in both Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian villages. The health sector has 22 employees, including doctors, nurses and support staff that work under the Kosovo system; ten (10) women and 12 men. Approximately 200 staff are working in the Serbia-run healthcare facilities in the municipality.

All communities have access to health care and health facilities regardless of the system under which they operate (source: municipal directorate of health and social welfare).

Education



There are six (6) primary schools and two (2) secondary schools with 2,500 pupils and 244 teachers, of them three (3) primary and one (1) secondary schools follow Serbian curriculum, and one (1) kindergarten with 95 children and seven (7) teachers in Štrpce/Shtërpçë town (source: municipal directorate of education, youth, culture and sport).

ŠTRPCE/SHTËRPCË

RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL SITES



Štrpce/Shtërpçë has five (5) mosques, all of which are in use. There are 16 Serbian Orthodox churches, none of them was destroyed or damaged in either 1999 conflict or March 2004 riots, most of them are in use. Five (5) Serbian Orthodox churches in the municipality are listed as Special Protective Zones, the Church of St. Nicholas in Štrpce/Shtërpçë town, the Church of St. Theodore in Biti e Poshtme/Donja Bitinja village, the Church of St. Nicholas in Gotovushë/Gotovuša village, the Church of the Holy Virgin in Gotovushë/Gotovuša village, and the Church of St. George in Biti e Epërme/Gornja Bitinja village.

A total of ten (10) cultural heritage sites (four (4) archaeological and six (6) architectural) in Štrpce/Shtërpçë municipality are included in the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport list of sites under permanent/temporary protection.

KEY FACTS



In Štrpce/Shtërpçë there are:

- 15 seats in the municipal assembly distributed among 3 political entities
- 61 police officers
- 2 judges
- 251 teachers in 6 primary and 2 secondary schools and 1 kindergarten