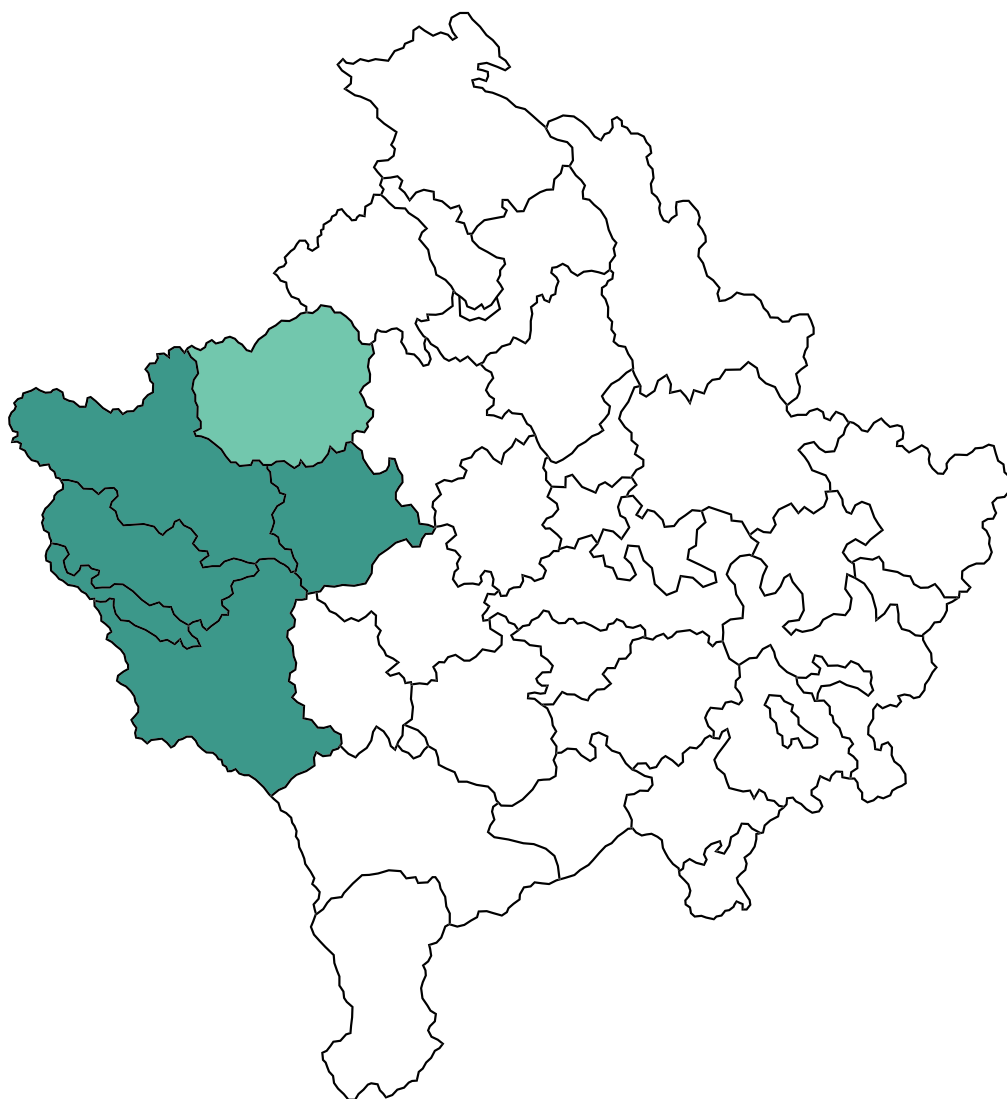


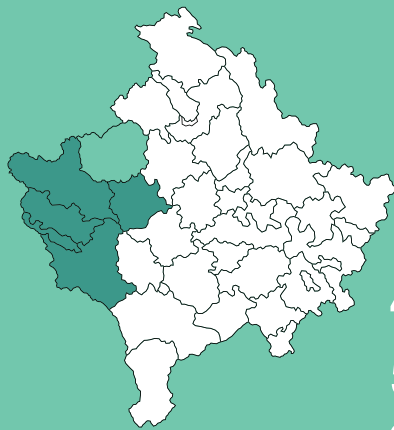
MUNICIPAL PROFILE 2018

PEJË/PEĆ REGION

ISTOG/ISTOK



ISTOG/ISTOK



454 km² area

50 villages

39,289 population

The OSCE regional centre Pejë/Peć covers six (6) municipalities, including Istog/Istok, and has teams working in all of them.

AREA AND POPULATION



The municipality of Istog/Istok is located in north-western Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 454 km² and includes Istog/Istok town and 50 villages. According to the 2011 Kosovo Population and Housing Census, the total population is 39,289.

Ethnic composition

1. Kosovo Albanians	36,154
2. Kosovo Egyptians	1,544
3. Kosovo Bosniaks	1,142
4. Kosovo Serbs	194
5. Kosovo Ashkali	111
6. Kosovo Roma	39
7. Kosovo Turks	10
8. Other	45
9. Not specified	50

(source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics)

According to the census conducted in 1981, there were 35,972 Kosovo Albanians, 7,736 Kosovo Serbs and 1,856 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality; according to the census conducted in 1991*, there were 43,910 Kosovo Albanians, 5,968 Kosovo Serbs and 1,302 Kosovo Montenegrins in the municipality.

According to the UNHCR statistics, 2,050 displaced persons have returned to the municipality since 1999, of them 980 Kosovo Serbs, 38 Kosovo Roma, 719 Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptians, 309 Kosovo Bosniak, one (1) Kosovo Albanian and three (3) Kosovo Montenegrins.

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

GOVERNING STRUCTURES AND POLITICAL OVERVIEW

The total number of voters in Istog/Istok municipality registered for the municipal elections held in 2017 (1st round in October and 2nd round in November) was 47,683¹, including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout in 1st round was 44.58% or 21,256 voters and in 2nd round it was 41.72% or 19,892 voters. On 17 December 2017, 2nd round of the 2017 municipal elections was repeated due to irregularities; the number of registered voters in the repeat election was 49,235, including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voters turnout in the repeated 2nd round was 41.38% or 19,869 voters (source: Central Election Commission).

The 2017 municipal assembly election results were as follows:

38.18%	LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
21.38%	AAK - Alliance for Future of Kosovo
14.52%	PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
8.93%	Vetëvendosje! (Self-Determination) Movement
4.50%	IQPI – Initiative of Istog/Istok Independents
3.32%	SL - Serbian List
2.19%	Slaviša Maliković
2.11%	Radenko Belošević

The current seat distribution is as follows:

11 seats
6 seats
4 seats
2 seats
1 seat
1 seat
1 seat
1 seat

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.

ISTOG/ISTOK

LEGISLATIVE



The municipal assembly has 27 seats distributed among eight (8) political entities, 24 are Kosovo Albanian and three (3) are Kosovo Serb; nine (9) are women. The Municipal Assembly Chairperson is Qaush Balaj (LDK).

EXECUTIVE



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

The municipality is headed by Mayor Haki Rugova (LDK), re-elected for his third term as mayor with 50.03% of votes in the repeated 2nd round of the 2017 municipal elections. In the 2013 municipal elections, Mayor Rugova won with 51.01% of votes in the first round. Deputy Mayor is Agim Ademaj (LDK).

There are 11 municipal departments. One (1) department is run by a woman director: general administration (LDK), ten (10) departments are run by men directors: budget and finance (LDK); inspection (LDK); economy and development (LDK); public services and protection (LDK); cadaster and geodesy (LDK); urban planning and environment (LDK); education (LDK); youth, culture and sport (PDK); health and social-welfare (PDK); and agriculture, forestry and hydro-economy (PDK). In the previous mandate (2013-2017), one (1) director was a woman (source: OSCE Field Team).

JUDICIARY



The Pejë/Peć Basic Court branch in Istog/Istok has four (4) judges; all Kosovo Albanian and all are men.

The Pejë/Peć Basic Prosecutor's Office covers the municipality (source: The Pejë/Peć Basic Court and Pejë/Peć Basic Prosecutor's Office)

SECURITY PRESENCE



Kosovo Police station in Istog/Istok municipality has 78 police officers: 73 are Kosovo Albanian, three (3) are Kosovo Bosniak, one (1) is Kosovo Serb and one (1) is Kosovo Ashkali; eight (8) are women (source: Kosovo Police)

As for the international military presence, Slovenian KFOR covers the area (source: Slovenian KFOR Liaison Monitoring Team - LMT).

ECONOMY



The economy of Istog/Istok municipality is predominantly based on agriculture. There are approximately 2,900 registered private businesses, out of which 1,425 are active and operational. There is no reliable data on the number of employees in the private sector (source: municipal business centre).

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. Istog/Istok town and 95 per cent of villages are connected to the water supply system, and approximately 30 per cent of residents have access to sewage system. Power supply has improved in both rural and urban areas over the last years (source: municipal department of public services and protection).

Health



The primary health care system includes five (5) municipal family health centres, one (1) located in Istog/Istok town and four (4) in Vrellë/Vrela, Banjë/Banja, Gurrakoc/Đurakovac and Rakosh/Rakoš villages. In addition, there are ten (10) primary healthcare centres. The health sector has 123 employees, including doctors, nurses and support staff; 87 women and 36 men.

In Istog/Istok municipality there is one (1) Serbia-run healthcare facility, located in Osojane/Osojan village, comprised of seven (7) office premises.

All communities have access to health care and all health facilities in the municipality (source: municipal department of health and social welfare).

Education



There are 11 primary schools with 5,868 pupils and 380 teachers, two (2) secondary schools with 1,576 students and 111 teachers and five (5) kindergartens with 279 children and 20 teachers.

There is one (1) Serbian-curriculum primary school in Osojane/Osojan village with 50 (returnee) children and 18 teachers (source: municipal department of education and culture, municipal office for communities and return, and the director of the "Radoš Tošić" school)



Istog/Istok municipality has a total of 14 mosques, one (1) was destroyed and five (5) were damaged in the 1999 conflict. All of them have been reconstructed after the conflict, and two (2) new ones have been built. All of them are functional. There is one (1) Catholic church in Gurrakoc/Đurakovac and is functional. There are in total nine (9) Serbian Orthodox churches, one (1) was destroyed after the 1999 conflict and was reconstructed in the period 2001-2003, one was (1) damaged after the 1999 conflict and further in the 2004 March riots and was reconstructed in the period 2007-2008, whereas three (3) remain damaged/burned and dysfunctional since the 1999 conflict, and one (1) is present within the remains of an archaeological medieval complex. Three (3) out of nine (9) Serbian Orthodox churches are classified as Special Protective Zones: Gorioč Monastery, Monastery of the Holy Virgin of Hvosno, and Church of Saint Nicholas (source: religious communities' representatives)

A total of 64 cultural heritage sites (archaeological and architectural) in Istog/Istok municipality are included in the Ministry of Culture Youth and Sport list of sites under permanent/temporary protection.

KEY FACTS



In Istog/Istok there are:

- 27 seats in the municipal assembly distributed among 8 political entities
- 78 police officers
- 4 judges
- 529 teachers in 12 primary and 2 secondary schools and 5 kindergartens