

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Mission in Kosovo

FACTSHEET



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Co-operation in Europe
Mission in Kosovo

Who we are

The OSCE Mission works to improve the protection of human and community rights, promote good governance and enhance public safety standards in Kosovo. The Mission, established in 1999, is the largest field operation in the OSCE.

It is the only civilian international organization present all over Kosovo that closely monitors political, institutional and security developments and provides recommendations for improvements where needed.

One of the Mission's main objectives is to further the development of a democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo, where the rights of all people are fully and equally respected. To this end, the Mission supports institutions and the civil society sector through training, advocacy, promotion and expertise.

The Mission has supported the establishment of a number of key institutions, including *the Assembly of Kosovo, the Ombudsperson Institution, the Kosovo Academy of Public Safety, the Kosovo Academy of Justice, the Central Election Commission, the Office of the Language Commissioner, and municipal community protection bodies.*

MANDATE

The Mission's mandate, outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, and OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 305 of 1 July 1999, gives the Mission a

“leading role in matters relating to institution and democracybuilding and human rights.”

The Mission works closely with other OSCE field missions in South-East Europe, to improve regional co-operation, dialogue and reconciliation.

PRESENCE

The Mission has five regional centres

1. Gjilan/Gnjilane
2. Mitrovicë/Mitrovica
3. Pejë/Peć
4. Prishtinë/Priština
5. Prizren

with field teams covering all of 38 municipalities across Kosovo.

What we do

The Mission's activities are guided by four principles: mainstreaming multi-ethnicity, tolerance, dialogue and reconciliation; promoting equality, institutional transparency and accountability; sustainability; and advancing gender, youth and communities' rights.

The Mission advances gender equality and women and girls' empowerment through all its programming while supporting institutions in implementing gender sensitive legal and policy frameworks.

The Mission has three programmatic departments:

1. Human Rights & Communities
2. Democratization
3. Security and Public Safety

1. Human Rights & Communities

Protecting and promoting human rights and community rights in Kosovo are among the Mission's key objectives.

The Mission focuses on non-majority communities' rights by advocating for their full participation in the decision-making process, their security, language rights and education. The Mission monitors the returns and reintegration process and advocates for property rights of displaced persons, vulnerable groups and especially women. In these areas, it monitors and advocates for the institutions' compliance with international human rights instruments and proper implementation of the applicable legislation. As a member of the Implementation Monitoring Council, which has a mandate to preserve and protect cultural and religious heritage, the Mission contributes to full implementation of Special Protective Zones legislation and provides appropriate training.

As a key international actor, the Mission reviews draft legislation and policy documents for compliance with international human rights standards and rule of law principles and monitors implementation. The Mission's trial monitoring program monitors cases at all stages throughout Kosovo for compliance with fair trial and international human rights standards. Based on this monitoring, the Mission publishes reports offering practical recommendations to justice system institutions and actors for remedial actions, including on training and suggested legislative changes. The Mission also strengthens the capacities of the judiciary, non-judicial institutions and civil society organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights, promoting equality and non-discrimination, raising awareness and protecting rights of vulnerable groups, including victims of domestic violence. The Mission aims to foster dialogue and build young peoples' capacities to protect, promote and apply human rights in their daily lives through the principles of rule of law and access to justice.

In addition to promoting inter-faith dialogue, the Mission supports the strengthening of relations between religious communities and institutions and their participation in local security mechanisms, as well as promoting their engagement in preventing and combating violent extremism and radicalisation that lead to terrorism. Additionally, it supports institutions to reintegrate repatriated persons from conflict areas.

2. Democratization

The Mission provides support to government institutions in performing their functions both individually and together as an integrated system of good governance. It works with the Assembly of Kosovo, Central Election Commission, independent institutions, government bodies, and municipalities to enhance their ability to provide effective public services in a transparent, accountable, and fully inclusive manner.

The Mission supports all levels of government to improve inter-governmental co-ordination in policy-making and implementation.

The Mission's work in the Assembly supports cross-party collaboration through mechanisms such as the Women's Caucus, Youth Caucus, and a network of women committee chairs, and supports its transparency and internal capacities through technical advisory support.

The Mission assists independent institutions such as the Audit Office, Information and Privacy Agency, and Agency for Prevention of Corruption in complying with democratic standards and enhancing the quality of their work, in line with international best practices. It also strengthens electoral processes by supporting electoral management bodies to ensure that elections are administered professionally and fairly, facilitating digitalization of electoral process and their greater transparency, and providing expert advice on electoral policies and processes.

At local level, the Mission advises municipalities on issues such as budget development and audit processes, e-governance, gender responsive budgeting, inter-municipal co-operation, legal drafting, policy-making and implementation, environmental governance, effective implementation of the right to access public documents, and the right to protection of personal data.

The Mission endeavors to enhance the adherence of media institutions – such as the public broadcaster, Press Council of Kosovo and Independent Media Commission – to the legal and regulatory framework, self-regulation, and international standards. Additionally, it works to foster professional journalism standards and ethics, and a safer environment for journalists, as well as expand media and information literacy education.

The Mission takes an all-encompassing approach to strengthening civil society organizations' and young people's public participation and their contributions to inter- and intra-community dialogue. In particular, the Mission promotes equal and inclusive public participation in policy and decision-making processes at all levels, with a particular focus on young women, youth belonging to non-majority communities, young persons with disabilities and those from remote areas.

In line with OSCE commitments, the Mission is keen to advance Youth and Women, Peace and Security Agendas, including through flagship initiatives, such as the Dialogue Academy for Young Women from Prishtinë/Prishtina and Belgrade, organized jointly with the OSCE Mission to Serbia.

3. Security and Public Safety

The Mission provides the public safety agencies of the Ministry of Internal Affairs with multifaceted support to prevent and combat security threats and foster a safe environment for all communities in Kosovo. It primarily focuses on strategic and capacity building support to enhance the skills of public safety agencies in preventing and fighting various serious and organized crimes.

The Mission also offers such assistance to augment the skill of public safety entities in forensics, police oversight, and special operational policing, as well as in communication, emergency management, and rehabilitation of incarcerated persons and their subsequent integration in the society. It also offers expertise and advisory assistance to the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety in strengthening its capacities and internal quality control of training programmes.

To foster dialogue between communities and police, the Mission works to expand police-public partnerships, bolstering the ability of community safety fora to address local safety and security issues across Kosovo. It also combines community policing and intelligence-led policing, engaging both the police and community safety fora in tackling criminality affecting communities' quality of life.

The Mission supports public safety agencies and women's professional associations in recruitment and retention, particularly in increasing representation in their structures of women and non-majority communities, including empowering the strategic police gender equality agenda.

The Mission also engages with the police and young people in preventing youth delinquency, especially on topics such as drug abuse, violent extremism and radicalization, violence in schools, and hate crimes.

Facts and Figures

Head of Mission

Ambassador Gerard McGurk

Staffing

384 posts

87 international

297 local staff

Budget

15,864,900 Euros

The Mission's personnel is based at *the Headquarters* in Prishtinë/ Priština and *5 Regional Centres*

Gjilan/Gnjilane

Mitrovicë/Mitrovica

Pejë/Peć

Prishtinë/Priština

Prizren