

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



Who we are

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

It is the only civilian international organization present all over Kosovo that closely monitors political, institutional and security developments and offers systemic remedies where needed.

One of the Mission's main objectives is to further develop the democratic and multi-ethnic society in Kosovo where the rights of all people are respected. In this regard, the Mission offers expertise and guidance to the institutions in Kosovo and reaches out to communities, in keeping with the Mission's mandate.

The Mission has been involved in establishing a number of key institutions, including the Assembly of Kosovo, the Ombudsperson Institution, the Central Election Commission, the Office of the Language Commissioner, municipal community protection bodies, among many others.

The Mission maintains close working relations with all communities and local institutions, and is a strong advocate for the local communities in promoting and protecting their rights.

Presence

The Mission's field presence consists of five regional centres/offices – Gjilan/Gnjilane, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Pejë/Peć, Prishtinë/Priština and Prizren – as well as over 30 field teams in municipalities across Kosovo.

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 democracy-building and human rights."

The OSCE Mission in Kosovo focuses on three main areas: human and community rights, democratization and public safety. The Mission closely works with other OSCE field presences in South-East Europe to improve regional co-operation, dialogue and reconciliation.



The Mission monitors the justice sector in Kosovo and assesses its compliance with international human rights and fair trial standards, providing assistance and training as necessary.



The Mission works to make gender equality a reality in Kosovo. At an advocacy and outreach event to promote women's inclusion and advancement in the public safety sector, the OSCE Mission joined forces with the Association of Kosovo Policewomen.

What we do

The Mission's activities are guided by four principles: mainstreaming multi-ethnicity, tolerance and reconciliation; promoting transparency and accountability to counter discrimination; sustainability; and gender mainstreaming. They are essential to achieving a more prosperous and democratic society.

The Mission has three programmatic departments: Human Rights and Communities, Democratization, and Security and Public Safety.

Human rights protection

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

In terms of the rights of communities, the Mission focuses on issues such as their participation in decision-making, security, language rights, returns and other displacement problems, the protection of cultural and religious heritage, and property rights.

The Mission is a key international actor in Kosovo

with regards to the human rights-focused monitoring of the justice sector. Regular thematic reports offer concrete recommendations and follow-up action on measures to improve the justice system. These reports are also used by the OSCE-established Kosovo Judicial Institute to further develop training courses for judges and prosecutors.

As a member of the Implementation Monitoring Council, a mechanism established to preserve and protect cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo, the Mission works with partners to better protect Special Protective Zones around cultural and religious heritage sites. The Mission also promotes tolerance by organizing inter-faith dialogue forums involving youth and representatives of all religious communities and institutions.

Democratization and good governance

The OSCE Mission works to strengthen democratic, transparent and accountable institutions in Kosovo.

The Mission is currently assisting the Assembly of Kosovo in enhancing its relationship with the government to improve legislative planning and to raise the executive's accountability. The Mission also supported the Assembly to strengthen its relations with civil society.

At the local level, the Mission monitors and supports the work of local institutions in select policy areas related to inclusiveness, transparency and accountability with the aim of improving the services they offer to all communities.

Enhancing the standards for a free and professional media sector in Kosovo is also among the Mission's objectives. The Mission, in compliance with international best practices, works to find a long-term independent financing solution for the RTK broadcaster. It also trains journalists - including those from northern municipalities - on conflict-sensitive reporting, promotes regional exchange programmes for journalists, and works with the media to strengthen the independence of reporting and the safety of journalists.

The Mission continues to support women's rights groups with a focus on ending gender-based violence, and is also active in working with the youth, including through apprenticeship programmes with government institutions.



Raising awareness among the youth of OSCE values is a priority of the Mission. At a Junior Basketball Tournament organized by the OSCE Mission in Prishtinë/Priština, youth from different communities learn about human rights and tolerance by taking part in sport.

What we do

(continued)

Security and public safety

The Mission helps ministries and law enforcement agencies to revise strategies and action plans to counter organized crime, terrorism, violent extremism, cybercrime and narcotics; as well as the strategies on intelligence-led policing, community policing and safety.

To foster dialogue between communities and police, the Mission works to expand police-public partnerships. It has established a number of community safety forums

to address local safety and security issues and is now working to establish new ones in northern Kosovo.

The Mission provides support in increasing the share of under-represented communities and women in police ranks and managerial positions through awareness raising and advocacy.

It also monitors police compliance with human rights standards and legislation on the use of official languages, as well as promoting appropriate police responses to cases of hate crime.



Countering violent extremism is an area of focus for the Mission's work. As well as having supported the development of Kosovo's countering violent extremism strategy, the Mission is now assisting in its implementation. The Mission also actively participates in the OSCE's United in Countering Violent Extremism campaign (#UnitedCVE).

Facts and figures

Head of Mission



Ambassador Jan Braathu

Staffing



503 posts, made up of 116 international and 387 local staff. The Mission's personnel is based at the headquarters in Prishtinë/Priština and five regional centres all over Kosovo.

Budget



17,510,500 Euros

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