Gorani community

Community profile

Figures as at the 2011 census; the 2024 census results are at **Kosovo Agency of Statistics (ReKos 2024).**

The profile supplements its 2011 census figures with OSCE data for northern Kosovo.

EUROPEAN CENTRE
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COMMUNITY PROFILE: GORANI COMMUNITY

1. POPULATION SIZE AND LOCATION

The Gorani community in Kosovo is one of the smaller communities in Kosovo. Based on the 2011 Kosovo census results, supplemented with OSCE data for northern Kosovo, ECMI Kosovo estimates that there are around 10,945Gorani living in Kosovo, making up around 0.58% of the total population. The community is concentrated primarily in the municipality of Dragash/Dragaš, where it makes up about 26% of the municipal residents, living mainly in the town of Dragash/Dragaš and surrounding villages.

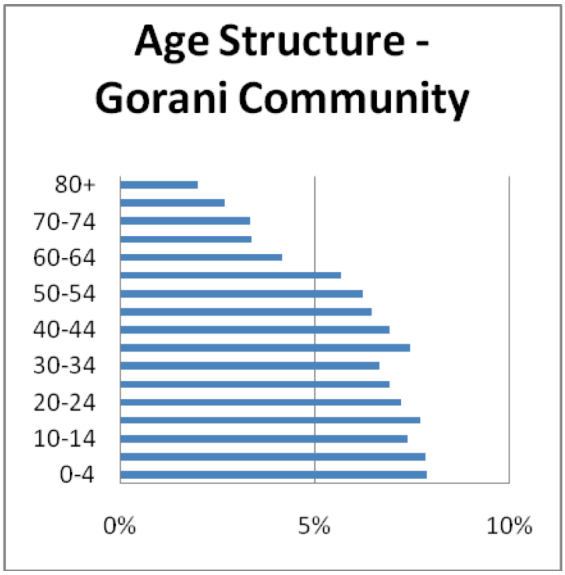
Smaller Gorani communities can also be found scattered across Kosovo, primarily in the municipalities of Prizren, Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Prishtinë/Priština, andPejë/Peć.

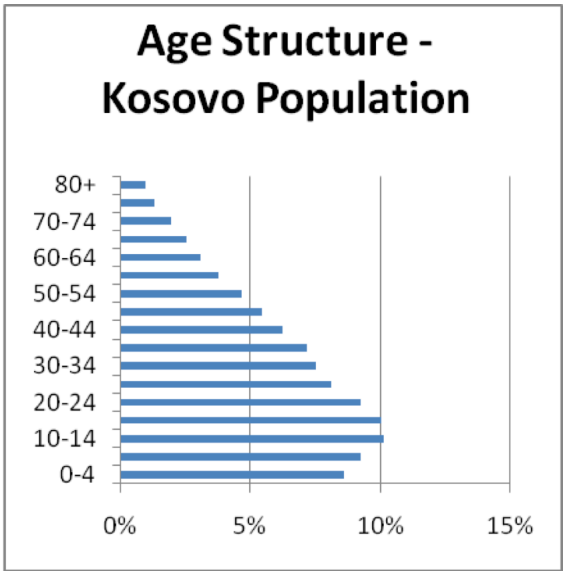
Gorani community in Kosovo according to the 2011 Census*		
Municipality	**Percentage**	**Number of community members**
Dragash/Dragaš	26.46%	8,957
Prizren	0.36%	655
Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North	1.97%	580
Prishtinë/Priština	0.1%	205
Pejë/Peć	0.19%	189
Gjilan/Gnjilane	0.07%	69
Ferizaj/Uroševac	0.06%	64
Kamenicë/Kamenica	0.08%	29
Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South	0.03%	23
Gračanica/Graçanicë	0.08%	22
FushëKosovë/Kosovo Polje	0.04%	15
Gjakovë/Đakovica	0.01%	13
Viti/Vitina	0.01%	7
Lipjan/Lipljan	0.01%	6
Obiliq/Obilić	0.02%	5
Vushtrri/Vučitrn	<0.01%	3
Shtime/Štimlje	0.01%	2
Deçan/Dečane	<0.00%	1

Total	**0.58%**	**10,945**

** The 2011 Kosovo census did not cover northern Kosovo. Therefore the 2013 OSCE Municipal Profiles were used as source for the data on the northern municipalities with Ashkali communities. For all southern municipalities, the official 2011 Kosovo census was used as a source.*

Based on the 2011 census, the Gorani population is considerably older than Kosovo's general population, with an average age of 34.6 years old, as opposed to the Kosovo average of 29.5 years old.





2. CULTURE AND RELIGION

The Gorani community is a Slav-speaking, predominantly Islamic group which, while sharing cultural similarities with Bosniaks, considers itself a separate ethnic group. The Gorani community originates from the Gora region, which covers southern Kosovo and borders parts of Macedonia and Albania. The Gorani community celebrates the beginning of the spring which is known as Đurevdan (St. George day), which is also recognised by law as the official day of the Gorani community (6 May).[1]

Traditional Gorani Folk music includes a two-beat dance called "kolo" (circle), which is a circle dance focused on foot movements. It is often accompanied by instrumental music made with a Zurle or Kavan called "nebet" or "nibet" depending on the village.

Currently the majority of the Gorani population resides outside of the Gora region, in other areas of Kosovo, Macedonia, and Albania, as well as in Serbia and Western Europe and the United States of America.

3. LANGUAGE

[1] Law on Official Holidays in Republic of Kosovo (No. 2008/03-L064), accessible at: http://www.kuvendikosoves.org/?cid=2,191,266

The Gorani language, referred to as Našuski (roughly meaning 'ours'), is closely related to the language spoken in the western part of Macedonia and, although it is different to other Slav dialects spoken in Kosovo, it can be understood by Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian speakers.

The language has not been standardised and no descriptive scholarly work on the Goranilanguage is available. This, together with continuous fights between two political factions, one supporting the use of Serbian and the other the use of Bosnian, prevents the Gorani community from advancing a coherent demand for language rights. As a consequence, although in Dragash/Dragaš the size of the Gorani community meets the legal requirements for it to be recognised as an official language at the municipal level, until present, this status has not been awarded to the Gorani language.

Most Gorani community members speak Serbian/Bosnian as a second language and many Gorani, particularly those living outside of Dragash/Dragaš, also speak Albanian.

4. POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

The Gorani community has one (1) seat guaranteed in the Kosovo Assembly,[2] and nominates two (2) members of the CCC.[3]

Over the past few years, the main Gorani political party has been 'Gradanskainicijativa Gore' (GIG), which has participated in both the general elections and the municipal elections of Dragash/Dragaš. The support for this party, which has not operated outside of Dragash/Dragaš, has been low. However, Gorani have also actively participated in and have been represented by Bosniak parties such as the 'VAKAT' coalition and the 'StrankaDemokratskeAkcije' (SDA).

Total number of votes for the main Gorani political party in Kosovo elections since 2007 (local and general)

	2007 (Gen.)	2007 (Mun.)	2009 (Mun.)	2010 (Gen.)	2013 (Mun.)
Gradanskainicijativa Gore (GIG)	1,227	989	454	787	319

Total number of votes for Gorani political parties per municipality since 2007 (local elections only)

	2007	2009	2013
Dragash/Dragaš	989	454	319

5. RETURNS

[2]Constitution, Article 64.
[3]Law on Communities(03/L-047), Article 12.6.

Exact numbers on the Gorani community before the 1999 conflict are unavailable, as previous censuses did not include Gorani as a group, but instead referred to 'Muslims', a typification which would have also included the Bosniak community (but not Albanians). Following the 1999 conflict, a considerable number of Gorani community members fled Kosovo for Serbia, Macedonia and Western European countries. Migration out of Kosovo continues, particularly for economic reasons.

From January 2000 until June 2013, 1,412 Gorani returned voluntarily, 131 were forcibly returned between January 2011 and June 2013, and there remain 15 Gorani community members displaced within Kosovo.[4]

Voluntary and forced returns of the Gorani community, Jan. 2000 – June 2013 (UNHCR, June 2013)

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Voluntary	3	0	73	145	141	125	139	234	85	90	182	106	89	0
Forced												40	65	26

6. SECURITY AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Although occassional small incidents have been reported, particularly in Dragash/Dragaš, the security situation and freedom of movement of the Gorani community is predominantly positively perceived; most Gorani report feeling safe to travel throughout Kosovo with both public and private transport. Numerous Gorani community members operate small businesses in Albanian-majority areas, reflecting the positive security situation.

However, in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica the general security situation can have an adverse affect on the freedom of movement of community members.

7. ECONOMY

According to UNDP (2012), the Gorani unemployment rate is 50%, higher than the general unemployment rate of 45% in Kosovo.[5] Reports seem to indicate that this unemployment figure largely reflects the situation of the Gorani community in the Dragash/Dragaš municipality, where the community faces many of the same economic difficulties that other communities face in this remote, rural and underdeveloped municipalty. In other areas of Kosovo Gorani are in a better socio-economic state, often engaging in small enterprises.

Gorani are among the most underrepresented groups in the Kosovo civil service, with the OCA reporting that 0.1% of all civil servants in Kosovo are Gorani, while the community

[4]UNHCR Office of the Chief of the Mission, Pristina, Kosovo, 'Statistical Overview: Update at end of June 2013'.

[5]UNDP, 'Kosovo Human Development Report 2012: Private sector and employment'.

makes up 0.58% of the total Kosovo population.[6] Moreover, within publically owned enterprises, some of the biggest employers in Kosovo, there are no Gorani employed.[7]

8. EDUCATION

Due to the issues discussed above, no education in the Našuski language exists in Kosovo. Gorani children in the Dragash/Dragaš and Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North municipalities predominantly attend the education system of the Republic of Serbia, while Gorani in other parts of Kosovo often attend Bosnian language, and sometimes Albanian language, education provided by the Kosovo Government. In Dragash/Dragaš there has been considerable pressure by Kosovo authorities for students to switch to the Kosovo state system.

Most Gorani follow tertiary education at the university in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North or atother universities within the region. The 2010 OSCE Community Profiles report low numbers of Gorani women continuing their education beyond the compulsory level.

9. ACCESS TO PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Gorani community makes use of the public services provided by the Republic of Serbia and Kosovo, depending on their area of residence. Where available, the Gorani community makes use of the health care services provided by the Republic of Serbia. Generally, the Gorani community experiences no significant obstacles in accessing public services. However, the lack of implementation of the *Law on the Use of Languages* can create communication problems, although, the good command of the Albanian language of many Gorani outside of Dragash/Dragaš ameliorates the situation.

[6] Office of Community Affairs, 'Assessment on the employment of members of non-majority communities in the Kosovo civil service and publicly owned enterprises', May 2013, p. 22.
[7] *Ibid*

