EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES KOSOVO

Socioeconomic Conditions in Northern Kosovo
Factsheet on Leposavić/Leposaviq

This municipality factsheet seeks to provide a specific overview of the findings reported in the recent survey on the "*Socioeconomic Conditions in Northern Kosovo*". The full comprehensive narrative of the report, issued by ECMI Kosovo in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the British Embassy in Prishtinë/Priština, is available in pdf on ECMI Kosovo official webpage, under our "Publication" section: https://ecmikosova.org/publications/.
The objective of this report, based on the perceptions and subjective opinions of the respondents, is to spotlight issues encountered by northern Kosovo residents in their daily lives, to voice their needs, concerns and aspirations. The report shows a quantitative and qualitative analysis of answers from a questionnaire administered to a sample of 721 respondents living in the four municipalities of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North, Leposavić/Leposaviq, Zubin Potok and Zvečan/Zveqan. When analysing and comparing responses between municipalities, it is very important to remember that the questionnaire addresses perceptions and not necessarily the objective reality of the current situation.
For the sake of clarity, all the data and figures published in the following factsheet refer to the abovementioned report – where not otherwise specified.

Area and Population

The municipality of Leposavić/Leposaviq is located in northern Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 750 km² and includes Leposavić/Leposaviq town and 72 villages. According to the municipal administration the total population is estimated at 18,890, of which (in estimated figures):

- 18,000 Kosovo Serbs;
- 350 Kosovo Albanians;
- 300 Kosovo Bosniaks;
- 240 Kosovo Roma;
- 2,500 displaced persons (DPs) received from all over Kosovo since June 1999.[1]
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Education

- 4 primary schools with 1,356 pupils and 168 teachers;
- 2 secondary schools with 443 students and 85 teachers;
- 2 kindergartens;
- 3 faculties - pedagogy, sport and agronomy - and 1 college – economics; these faculties are part of the public university in northern Mitrovica/Mitrovicë.[2]

I.General Perceptions

Perceptions about the delivery of formal education: 49% of the respondents in Leposavić/Leposaviq declared satisfaction.
Perceptions about the quality of teaching: participants in Leposavić/Leposaviq gave high reviews, with 48.54% expressing satisfaction.

[1] OSCE Municipal Profiles, November 2011. Available at: http://www.osce.org/kosovo/13120
[2] Ibid.

Perceptions about the quality of school equipment: the majority of respondents in this municipality (39%) declared to be somewhat satisfied, while 30% were satisfied about the quality of school equipment.
It has however to be noticed that the questionnaire addresses perceptions and not necessarily the objective reality of the current situation: Leposavić/Leposaviq receives very good reviews despite a reported poor infrastructure and a limited access to education.

II.Transition from Education to Employment

Despite this sense of satisfaction, the transition from education to employment remains very difficult.
There is an overall pessimism about the employment opportunities after graduation, especially within the same field of studies. In Leposavić/Leposaviq, the majority of respondents see few (53%) or no (34%) opportunities to find employment in their geographic area. Even more strikingly, a vast majority of people interviewed see few (70.80%) or no (24.82%) opportunities to find employment within their field of studies.

III.Informal Education

One way to bridge the gap between education and employment or to mitigate the risk of working in other fields is to enhance informal education. In Leposavić/Leposaviq, local NGOs and international organizations (respectively, 39% and 50% of the responses) are the main provider of such education; the 91% of respondents considered language courses and IT skills a plausible way to acquire the skills necessary for the labour market.

IV.Inclusive Education

Discriminatory practices are certainly perceived to exist to varying degrees in Leposavić/Leposaviq, especially towards people with disabilities.
On this issue, Leposavić/Leposaviq has collected positive responses on the extent of discriminatory practices towards people with disabilities in relation to other students: even here, 52% of the responses fall under "not often", suggesting that discrimination exists.
Respondents from Leposavić/Leposaviq considered the quality of teaching as relatively good (45% of respondents); however, they perceived the equipment as less satisfactory for people with disabilities: 47% of respondents perceived it as average, while 31% defined it as "poor" or "very poor". In general, people from this municipality are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (54%) with the quality of education for people with disabilities.

Healthcare

The primary health care system includes:

- 1 health house and 8 health units;
- 163 employees, including doctors, nurses and support staff;
- 1 health unit in Kosovo Albanian village of Bistricë/Bistrica with 3 medical staff.[3]

I. General Perceptions

Leposavić/Leposaviq has ranked generally positive reviews when it comes to the quality of healthcare: around 66% of respondents said to be somewhat or totally satisfied.
Moreover, 38% respondents declared that the quality of medical equipment is good and 47% said it is average. According to the majority of respondents, the quality of medical personnel is good (36%) or very good (29%), as the quality of service provided by the healthcare structures. Finally, for the majority of people (83%) it's easy or very easy to access to healthcare services.

II.Reproductive Healthcare

The majority of responses in Leposavić/Leposaviq fall under neither satisfied nor dissatisfied about the quality of reproductive healthcare, without any significant gender distinction.
This trend can be seen for Leposavić/Leposaviq, where 'on the fence' answers account for 42.16%, while 27% reported it to be poor.

[3] OSCE Municipal Profiles, November 2011. Available at: http://www.osce.org/kosovo/13120

Such results, however, could reflect a low level of awareness about reproductive healthcare among respondents.

III.Substance abuse

Regarding the report on substance abuse[4], in Leposavić/Leposaviq there is a significant variation by age: only 29% of young people reported using alcohol or nicotine in comparison to 51% of the older respondents.
Leposavić/Leposaviq has also a high rate (80%) of nicotine addiction[5] among those respondents who declared to be addicted to substances. Declared alcohol addiction remains around 19%.

Social Welfare

I.General Findings

A very small percentage of respondents reported being among the beneficiaries of social welfare programmes: only 14% in Leposavić/Leposaviq. Moreover, in the smaller sample of respondents who reported to be beneficiaries of cash value schemes, 68% declared them to be unsatisfactory.
The most popular answer in Leposavić/Leposaviq was the neutral "neither satisfied nor dissatisfied" - 44% of respondents – followed by an equal number of people being somewhat satisfied (18%) or somewhat dissatisfied (18%), and a very small percentage of people being completely satisfied (6%). In this municipality, people believe that CSOs have adequate financial resources to develop such programmes.

II.Public Programmes and Services

In Leposavić/Leposaviq, the majority of respondents are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied by services provided in general (55%) as well as the number and the delivery of social services – respectively, 50% and 57%.
Programmes and services targeting older people are far from satisfactory: 51% of respondents in Leposavić/Leposaviq are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, while 27% are dissatisfied.
When asked whether they think their income is able to meet their basic requirements, 62% of 50-70 year olds respondents in Leposavić/Leposaviq answered negatively.
Leposavić/Leposaviq scored positive responses on the social development services for people with disabilities: the 41% of respondents were somewhat satisfied, while 32% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Moreover, 75% of people think that people with disabilities are able to meet their needs thanks to social service.
In general, perceptions about cultural events are mostly negative, with a total of 35% neither satisfied nor dissatisfied and 36% somewhat or completely dissatisfied; young respondents (aged 15 to 24) were the main contributor to these negative results.

III.Safety

The Kosovo police station in Leposavić/Leposaviq municipality has 59 police officers:

- 52 Kosovo Serbs;
- 6 Kosovo Albanians;
- 1 Kosovo Bosniak;
- International military presence.[6]

When asked to report their perceived degree of safety, the least amount of respondents (3%) declared that they felt completely unsafe; 39% of them reported to feel completely safe.
This could be explained by the fact that Leposavić/Leposaviq is a largely mono-ethnic municipality, and it's further away from the Ibar River. It shows a significantly low level of satisfaction in terms of perceptions regarding local authorities' and civil societies' capacity to respond to violence (34% are somewhat or completely dissatisfied, while 32% are neither satisfied nor dissatisfied).

[4] The term "substance abuse" is used synonymously with harmful or hazardous use; for the purposes of this survey, addiction was considered use of a substance more than once a week.
[5] Smoking rates among adults are estimated to less than 20% in OECD countries.
[6] OSCE Municipal Profiles, November 2011. Available at: http://www.osce.org/kosovo/13120

Employment and Local Economy

I.Labour Market

Leposavić/Leposaviq has a quite low rate of temporary[7] workers, in comparison to permanent ones, but still 48% of respondents do not hold a permanent job. Moreover, 38% of the respondents reported that their employment income is insufficient, while 30% defined it as insufficient. Furthermore, 47% in Leposavić/Leposaviq did not report holding a job in a field related to their education; this answer was given by 64% of young people between 15 and 24 years of age. As a positive detail, it can be noticed that 60% of the people employed hold a job that is at the level of their education.

II.Economic Development

Employment:
In Leposavić/Leposaviq, 59% participants reported being employed in the private sector and SMEs, 44% in the public sector; none of the respondents from this municipality reported to be employed in the agricultural sector. According to more than 75% of respondents in this municipality, all the sectors are able to generate employment opportunities, particularly SMEs and the agricultural sector.
Income:
In Leposavić/Leposaviq, the public sector is perceived as the most likely to generate sufficient or very sufficient income (for almost half of the respondents), followed by the agricultural sector, where almost an equal number of respondents believe it to be able to generate almost sufficient (46%) or sufficient income (46%). The private sector scores less positive reports (only 45% of the respondents believe it to be able to generate sufficient or very sufficient income, while 19% defines it as insufficient). SMEs generate almost sufficient income according to 72% of the respondents in this municipality.
Infrastructure:
With respect to the quality of infrastructure, employees of the public sector are generally satisfied (59%), followed by the private sector, where 37% of respondent are somewhat satisfied. However, in both the private sector as well as for SMEs, neutral responses ("neither satisfied nor dissatisfied") are predominant. When it comes to the agricultural sector, 38% of respondents are somewhat or completely dissatisfied by the infrastructure available.

[7] In the context of the survey, temporary work was considered as either occasional, short-time or part-time employment.