

Kosovo

Kosovo proclaimed its independence from Serbia on February 17, 2008 (Ebel and Péteri 2007; Jenne 2009). From 1999–2008, Kosovo was administered by the United Nations interim administration mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), which was assisted and supported by the Rule of Law mission of the European Union (EULEX). There is one subnational tier with self-government (C 2008, Arts. 12, 123–124; Law No. 40/2008), consisting of thirty-seven municipalities which hold direct elections for assemblies and mayors (Law No. 72/2008) and have fiscal autonomy (Law No. 49/2008).

The capital city of Pristina has its own law since 2018 which grants Pristina competences in public safety, health protection, and public services in addition to the competences laid down in the law on local self-government (Law No. 40/2008; No. 12/2018, Art. 7). The law on the capital city of the Republic of Kosovo, Pristina, also stipulates that the city government shall support the central government and diplomatic representations in exercising their functions and responsibilities and the law allocates Pristina an additional grant of no less than six percent of the general grant of municipalities (Law No. 12/2018, Arts. 17 and 19). Pristina has almost 200,000 inhabitants but the city is not divided into districts or neighborhood councils. Pristina falls just short of meeting the criteria for regional government.^β

The constitution contains provisions for minority communities, which guarantee representation in a national consultative council, in public employment, and in local government (C 2008, Arts. 60–62). The law on local self-government gives municipalities where the Serb community is in the majority extended powers in cultural and religious affairs, in the selection of local police commanders and in the provision of university education and secondary health care (Doli and Korenica 2013; Law No. 40/2008, Arts. 20–23; Ministry of Local Government Association 2013). The Brussels agreement (Kosovo 2013) signed by the governments of Kosovo and Serbia foresees the establishment an association/community for Serb majority municipalities (*zajednica srpskih opština*) that exercises these extended powers on behalf of these municipalities. The association would also provide services in economic development, education, health, urban and rural planning but implementation of the Brussels agreement is postponed because of disagreements about the extent of powers for this association (Agimi 2014; Shala 2015).

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