

# **EARLY WARNING REPORT KOSOVO**

## **Report # 18**

**Political and institutional stability**  
**Economic and social stability**  
**Inter-ethnic relations**  
**Public and personal security**  
**Emigration trends**

**October 2007**

The views expressed in this report are those of the experts and respondents and do not necessarily represent the views of either UNDP or USAID.

In this report, "Kosovo" refers to the UN administered territory according to UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

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## Geographic regions of Kosovo



## Selected Economic Indicators

	Jan-Mar 2005	Apr-Jun 2005	Jul-Sep 2005	Oct-Dec 2005	Jan-Jun 2006	Jul-Sep 2006	Oct-Dec 2006	Jan-Mar 2007	Apr-Jun 2007	Jul-Oct 2007	Trend
Population (in ,000) (a)	1,999*			2,033 **			2.07**	2.07**	2.1**	◀▶	
GDP growth rate (annual), % (a)	0.3			3.0					3.5	▲	
GDP per capita, € (a)	1,120 (a)			1,117 (a)					1,150	▼	
KCB (Annual), million € (b)	641.5			713.2 (l)			553 ** (m)	553 (m)	553 (m)	▲	
Workers' remittances, million €	281.0 (a)			318.0 (a)					398	▲	
Foreign assistance, million € (a)	462.0 *			465.0 *					352	▼	
KPST fund, million € ©	145.8 (Dec)			167.5 (May) (d)	177 (Sep) (k)	213.0 (Dec) (k)	230.6 (Mar)		276 (Oct)	▲	
KTA fund, million € (e)	113.1 (Dec)			234.9 (Apr)	256.1 (Aug) (h)	275.0 (Dec)	291.6 (Feb)		384.4 (Oct)	▲	
Bank deposits, million €	704.8 (Feb)	731.2 (May)	765.8 (Aug)	809 (Nov)	844.6 (Apr) (e)	881.6 (Aug) (h)	926.4 (Dec)	973.5 (Feb)	967.6 (Apr)	1.102.740 (Oct)	▲
Commercial bank loans, million €	356.5 (Feb)	400.1 (May)	401.8 (Aug)	435.7 (Nov)	459.7 (Apr) (e)	476.4 (Aug) (h)	490.5 (Dec)	515.1 (Feb)	560.2 (Apr)	659.9 (Oct)	▲
Trade balance, million € (j)	-219.1 (Jan-Mar)	-308.5 (Jan-Apr)	-723.4 (Jan-Aug)	-1028.4 (Jan-Nov)	-537.5 (Jan-Jun)	-761.3 (Jan-Aug) (j)	-1235.3 (Jan-Dec)	-101.92 (Jan-Feb)	-400 (Jan-Apr)	-1164.2 (Jan-Oct)	▼
Registered job-seekers	303,095 (Jan)	311,230 (May)	314,446 (Aug)	319,721 (Dec)	323,201 (May)	324,835 (Sep)	326,026 (Dec)	331,056 (Mar)			▲
Consumer Price Index, % (compared to May 2002) ***	101.4 (May)	100.0 (May)	98.5 (Aug)	101.9 (Nov)	102.9 (May)	101.3 (Aug) (f)	102.6 (Nov)	100.2 (Mar)	99.4 (Apr)	103.9 (Sep)	▲

\* Estimated

\*\* Projected

\*\*\* In January 2006, SOK changed the methodology for compiling CPI. Therefore the comparison of currently produced CPI with the CPI from before January 2006 is not possible

## Sources:

- IMF (2007), IMF Aide Memoire of the IMF Staff Mission to Kosovo, February 19-27, 2007
- MEF (2006), Budget 2006, MEF, Government of Kosovo, Prishtinë/Priština.
- KPST (2005), Annual Report 2005, KPST, Prishtinë/Priština.
- Assessment obtained from KPST through e-mail.
- CBAK (2006), Monthly Statistics Bulletin, No. 56, BPK, Prishtinë/Priština, April 2006.
- SOK (2006), Price Statistics Division, Consumer Price Index, SOK, Government of Kosovo, Prishtinë/Priština.  
The rest of the figures are from UNDP (2006), Early Warning Report No. 12: October - December 2005, UNDP, Prishtinë/Priština, op. cit.
- United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees Kosovo.
- BPK (2006), Monthly Statistics Bulletin, No. 56, BPK, Prishtinë/Priština, August 2006.
- Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, 2006.
- This is the trade deficit for the period Jan-Feb 2007, Statistical Office of Kosovo
- This figure is reported at KPST's website, date of release February 7th, 2007
- CBAK (2007). Monthly Statistics Bulletin for December 2006. No (64). Prishtinë/Priština
- Kosovo Ministry of Economy and Finance - First Quarterly Report 2007

## Selected Indicators from the Opinion Poll

	Mar 2005 a)	Jun 2005 a)	Sep 2005 a)	Dec 2005 a)	Jun 2006 a)	Sep 2006 c)	Dec 2006 d)	Mar 2007 e)	Jun 2007 f)	Oct 2007 g)	Trend
Political pessimism, % ("very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" with current political trends)	38.6	35.8	41.0	40.2	43.4	38.7	48.9	50.0	54.0	53.0	◀▶
Economic pessimism, % ("very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" with current economic trends)	71.1	69.9	68.8	73.3	76.0	70.0	76.2	76.1	70.7	63.8	▼
Willingness to protest due to economic reasons, %	62.9	63.5	57.4	69.3	62.8	44.0	42.8	46.0	54.9	69.5	▲
Willingness to protest due to political reasons, %	48.9	48.4	45.4	56.2	45.5	30.6	30.9	28.6	31.2	59.4	▲
Satisfaction with UNMIK's performance*, %	29.7	41.4	34.5	35.9	30.5	29.9	28.0	26.1	31.5	29.2	◀▶
Satisfaction with SRSG's performance*, %	81.2	81.7	69.8	72.0	70.5	34.5	43.6	38.3	45.9	32.4	▼
Satisfaction with PISG's performance*, %	81.2	67.7	48.7	51.0	43.3	27.2	27.2	34.2	35.9	28.1	▼
Satisfaction with Assembly's performance*, %	73.7	63.0	59.0	56.2	45.4	43.0	25.6	34.6	31.9	36.2	▲
Satisfaction with KFOR's performance*, %	81.0	87.3	84.3	86.3	81.0	83.6	77.5	75.4	81.8	76.5	▼
Satisfaction with KPS performance *, %	86.9	84.4	84.5	84.2	81.8	81.5	72.5	68.5	79.3	76.9	◀▶
Feelings of insecurity ("Somewhat unsafe" or "very unsafe" while outdoors)	38.1	36.6	36.7	42.9	35.5	42.7	38.6	43.7	22.6*	54.38*	

\* includes "satisfied" and "very satisfied" (question was redesigned in June 2007, therefore June results are not comparable to earlier results)

## Sources:

- a) UNDP (2006), Early Warning Report No. 12: October – December 2005, UNDP, Prishtinë/Priština, op. cit.
- b) UNDP (2006), Opinion Poll: January – June 2006.
- c) UNDP (2006), Opinion Poll: July – September 2006.
- d) UNDP (2006), Opinion Poll: October - December 2006
- e) UNDP (2006), Opinion Poll: January - March 2007
- f) UNDP (2006), Opinion Poll: April - June 2007



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## List of Acronyms

<b>CBAK</b>	Central Banking Authority of Kosovo
<b>CPI</b>	Consumer Price Index
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>EWR</b>	Early Warning Report
<b>EWS</b>	Early Warning System
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>KEK</b>	Korporata Energjetike e Kosovës (Energy Corporation of Kosovo)
<b>KFOR</b>	Kosovo Force
<b>KIPRED</b>	Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development
<b>KPC</b>	Kosovo Protection Corps
<b>KPS</b>	Kosovo Police Service
<b>KTA</b>	Kosovo Trust Agency
<b>MEF</b>	Ministry of Economy and Finance
<b>OSCE</b>	Organization for Cooperation and Security in Europe
<b>PISG</b>	Provisional Institutions of Self Government
<b>RTK</b>	Radio Televizioni i Kosovës (Public TV Broadcaster of Kosovo)
<b>SEE</b>	South-East Europe
<b>SOK</b>	Statistical Office of Kosovo
<b>SRSB</b>	Special Representative of the Secretary General
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNMIK</b>	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
<b>UNSC</b>	United Nations Security Council



## Foreword

This is UNDP's 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Early Warning Report (EWR), a series that commenced in August 2002. We continue to enjoy the sponsorship of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that shares the cost of the EWR. Covering the period from July to October 2007, the report follows the tradition of previous reports by examining the evolving situation in Kosovo in four main areas: political, socio-economic, interethnic, and security. A particular feature of the Early Warning System (EWS) Project Phase IV is that every quarterly report will draw from the expertise of a diverse pool of analysts.

This edition of the Early Warning Report is published in a period of intensive and important developments with the upcoming Kosovo national, local, and mayoral elections, the 120-day period of negotiations under the auspices of the Contact Group mandated Troika, and the continuous international discussions on the final status determination for Kosovo. In this regard, continued monitoring of early warning indicators may prove to be a necessary tool for obtaining insight into potential conflict-causing factors as well as the opinion of Kosovo people on the status process.

The EWR Number 18 has four main topics: political and institutional stability, the socio-economic situation, interethnic relations and personal and public security. The analysis of these issues is primarily based on data from a public opinion survey carried out by the Riinvest Institute during the second half of October 2007. This extensive survey measures the perceptions of citizens on the main issues that preoccupy Kosovo society. Some important highlights of the survey are:

- Satisfaction with key governing institutions has decreased visibly in October 2007 compared to the June 2007 reporting period. As of October 2007, approximately 28% of survey respondents are satisfied with the work of UNMIK and the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) with approval ratings for UNMIK dropping by some three percentage points since June 2007. The Kosovo Assembly, however, is the only institution whose approval rating has increased by some four percentage points – currently enjoying a 36% approval rating.
- After a decline in economic pessimism to 71% in June 2007, the October 2007 results show a further decline in the level of economic pessimism to 64%, which still represents a major concern for Kosovo.
- The number of K-Serbs willing to work with K-Albanians has noticeably declined from 50% in June 2007 to only 29% in October 2007. Approximately 43% of K-Albanian respondents in the October 2007 opinion poll stated that they would agree to work with K-Serbs, which represents a slight increase since the June 2007 poll.

While the report might be of interest to the general reader, its primary intention is to provide monitoring and conflict prevention proposals for action by key actors within the PISG and local leadership as well as development actors, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the International Community. All conclusions and proposed recommendations presented in this report are a result of several rounds of discussions with experts from diverse areas, backgrounds, and institutional settings.

We remain confident that the set of analyses presented in EWR Number 18 will stimulate a lot of thought and discussion among readers and that it will attract appropriate attention from the relevant political and other actors in Kosovo. It gives us great pleasure, therefore, to extend our appreciation and gratitude to the contributing experts that participated in discussions and provided their insights, perspectives, and interpreted the results of the opinion poll, and to all those who supported us in the process of completing this edition of EWR.



Frode Mauring  
Resident Representative



## Executive Summary

- K-Albanians and K-Serbs continue to be deeply divided in their preference for Kosovo's future political status. Independence of Kosovo within present borders remains the most preferred option among K-Albanians (90%) while the overwhelming majority of K-Serb respondents (90%) stated that Kosovo should be an autonomous province within Serbia. No K-Serb respondents, as opposed to only 1% of K-Albanians see the current UN administration of Kosovo as the best solution for the final status whereas about 5% of K-Serbs and less than 1% of K-Albanians favour Kosovo's partitioning.
- Compared to June 2007, satisfaction with the Kosovo Assembly has slightly increased, while for the PISG it has decreased from 36% to 28%. KPS and KFOR have seen their approval ratings decrease a little to a satisfaction level of approximately 76%. Satisfaction with the performance of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) which increased to 46% in June 2007 saw a decline to 32% in October 2007.
- The highest level of political pessimism since July 2002 was recorded in our previous report – 54% according to the June 2007 poll results. The October 2007 poll has recorded a further increase. Political pessimism is now just over 57% the highest level ever recorded since July 2002. After a decrease in economic pessimism to 71% in June 2007, the October 2007 poll results show that this decreasing trend has continued – this indicator now stands at 64%, which still represents a major concern for Kosovo.
- Poverty ties with unemployment as runner-up to Kosovo's unresolved political status as the critical problem facing Kosovo. In October 2007, unemployment was seen by some 17% (a drop of 14 percentage points since June 2007 poll) of respondents as the most important issue facing Kosovo, while some 18% (a drop of four percentage points since June 2007) of respondents reported that poverty was the most important issue, and over 34% (an increase of three percentage points since June 2007) stated that Kosovo's unresolved political status was the most important issue facing Kosovo.
- The number of K-Serbs willing to work with K-Albanians has noticeably declined from 50% in June 2007 to only 29% in October 2007. Approximately 43% of K-Albanian respondents in

the October 2007 opinion poll stated that they would agree to work with K-Serbs, which represents a slight increase since the June 2007 poll.

- As of October 2007 only about 11% of K-Serbs are satisfied with the performance of KFOR (an enormous drop by some 42 percentage points since June 2007), and around 13% with the performance of UNMIK Police (again an enormous drop by some 27 percentage points since June 2007). Satisfaction with KPS also slightly decreased from 19% in June 2007 to 12% in October 2007, whereas KPC (TMK) was the only institution to have seen a slight increase in K-Serb satisfaction moving from about 4% in June 2007 to almost 6% in October 2007.
- After an increase in their approval rating among K-Albanian respondents, from 73% in March 2007 to 84% in June 2007, the Kosovo Police Force has seen a decrease by some three percentage points according to the October 2007 poll, currently standing at 81%.

## Methodology

The Kosovo Early Warning System Project is a component of UNDP's regional early warning framework. The project aims to build the capacity of local analysts to foresee potential crises, and to advise on crisis prevention policies. The Reports are intended as strategic planning, response, and policy tools for development and peace-building actors in Kosovo by deriving recommendations for preventive measures from trend analysis and the monitoring of key sector indicators of fundamental conflict-causing factors. The Early Warning System Project is a UNDP regional initiative. The Kosovo Early Warning Reports are co-funded by USAID and UNDP and are produced quarterly.

The Kosovo Early Warning Report Nr: 18 has been written by the local UNDP team, includes contributions from the Expert Group meetings and is based on statistical analysis of an opinion poll conducted by the Riinvest Institute during the second half of October 2007. The survey was based on face-to-face interviews, and included 1,296 respondents: 822 K-Albanians, 244 K-Serbs, and 230 respondents from Other minorities (43 Bosnian, 33 Gorani, 70 Turks, 55 Ashkali, 2 Roma, 27 Egyptian). The sample was selected through a random sampling method and was stratified on the basis of geographic regions that are based on telephone area codes (7) and municipalities (30) and urban rural ratio (1:1). This nationally representative sample is calculated with a confidence level of 95% which yields a confidence interval (CI) of +/- 2.71.



## Chapter 1

### KOSOVO'S INSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL STABILITY

#### I. Satisfaction with Kosovo's Institutions

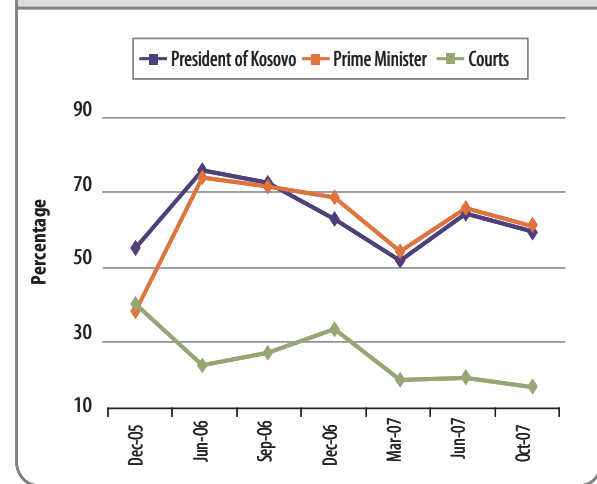
After a brief increase as shown by our June 2007 polling, satisfaction ratings with Kosovo's institutions have once again seen an overall decrease. The only institution to see a slight, but constant increase since December 2006 is the Assembly of Kosovo, which according to the October 2007 (see Figure 1.1) opinion poll enjoys a satisfaction rating of about 36%. Satisfaction with the rest of Kosovo's institutions has dropped - KFOR and KPS both now have a 76% satisfaction level, which represents a decrease of some 5% since June 2007; the SRSG's rating has seen a significant drop (some 14%) and stands now at 32%; UNMIK's rating has also dropped by some 3% standing now at 29%; while the PISG's rating dropped by 8% and is now 28%.

As in the previous polls, the highest satisfaction ratings belong to the security sector, both KFOR and KPS, whereas the lowest satisfaction ratings belong to the government bodies, both UNMIK and the PISG.

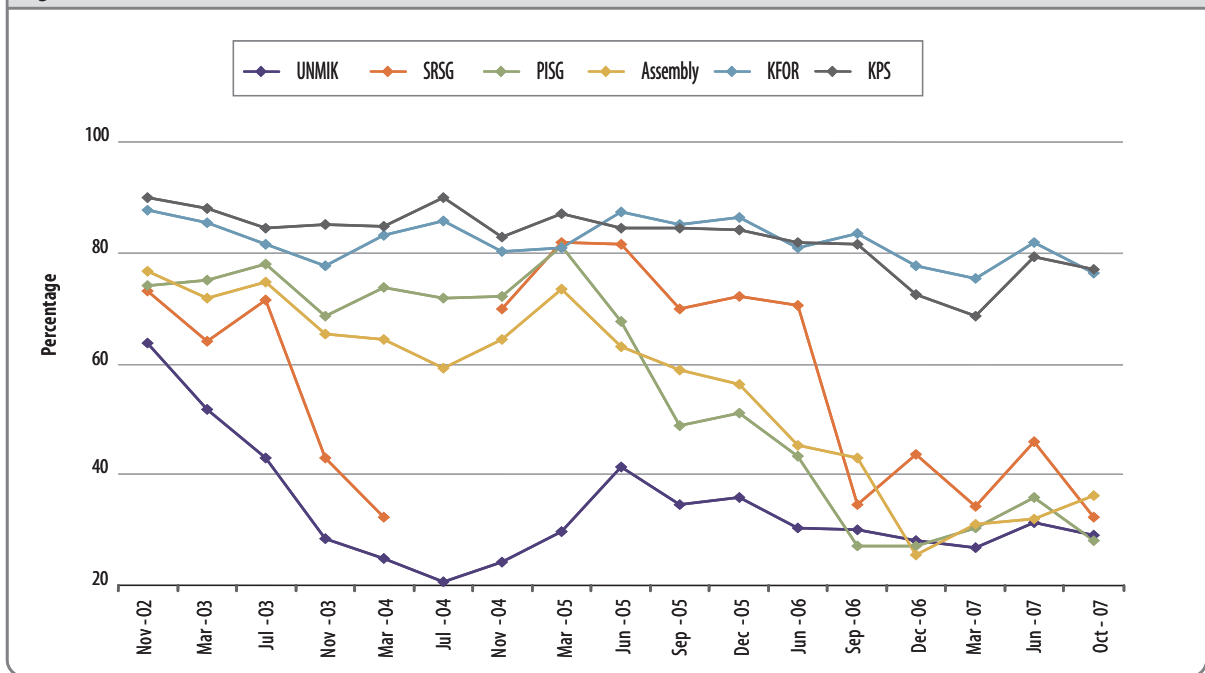
More specifically, looking at the approval ratings for the Kosovo President, Prime Minister, and Courts (Figure 1.2), it is noticeable that all three of them have

seen a decreasing trend since June 2007, after an increase between March and June 2007. While the ratings for the President and the Prime Minister remain at moderately positive levels – 62% for the Prime Minister, 60% for the President; the ratings for the Kosovo Courts remain at an unacceptably low level of only 18%. Compared to the overall ratings of the PISG, the ratings for the two main figures in the Kosovo institutions – President and Prime Minister – are higher and as such may indicate the distinction that people make between individual leaders and government as a whole. Alternatively, people in general seem to be more satisfied with the work of the President and the Prime Minister than that of the PISG.

**Figure 1.2:** Satisfaction with the work of President, Prime Minister and Courts



**Figure 1.1:** Satisfaction with the work of institutions in Kosovo



### Kosovo's Political Direction

Political pessimism in Kosovo has increased by a further 3% to 57% which is the highest level recorded since July 2002. While this increase may seem small, the increasing trend in this regard is worrying.

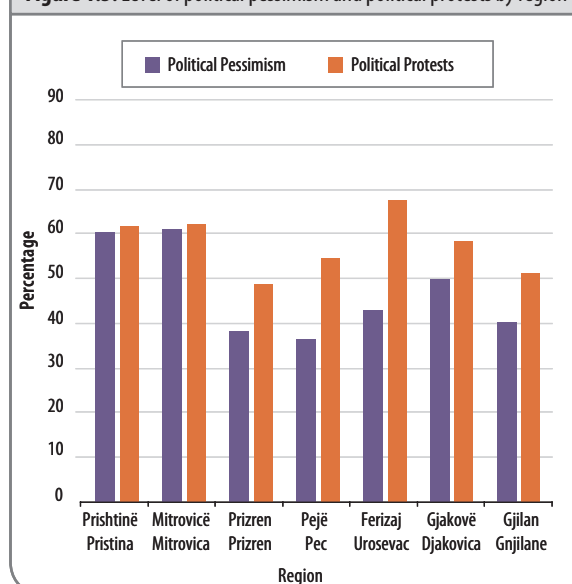
A simple regression analysis shows that political pessimism in Kosovo is strongly and positively correlated with people's refusal to vote.<sup>1</sup> So, as political pessimism increases, it is likely that more people will not vote, which has negative consequences for the building of democracy in Kosovo.

The degrees of political pessimism and willingness to protest for political reasons vary across Kosovo (Figures 1.3). Both Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica regions share first place for the highest level of political pessimism (about 70.5%), followed by Gjakovë/Djakovica, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjilan/Gnjilane, Prizren, and the Pejë/Peć region which shows the lowest level of political pessimism at just 42%. While it maybe quite understandable for the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region to have such a high level of political pessimism (e.g., ethnic division, lack of security, inability to return to one's property in the North, etc.), it is less clear as to why the Prishtinë/Priština region would tie with Mitrovicë/Mitrovica in this regard.

As opposed to the previous poll results of June 2007, where Gjilan/Gnjilane showed the highest level of willingness for political protests (57%), now Ferizaj/Uroševac shows the highest level in this regard (78%), followed by Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Prishtinë/Priština, Gjakovë/Djakovica, Pejë/Peć, Gjilan/Gnjilane, and Prizren. Gjilan/Gnjilane now shows the second lowest level of willingness for political protests (59%), while in the June 2007 poll Ferizaj/Uroševac, had the lowest level of willingness for political protests at only 21%

Overall, this poll shows a stunning increase of about 28 percentage points in the level of willingness to protest for political reasons Kosovo-wide, as compared to the June 2007 poll. The reasons behind this almost doubling of willingness to protest for political reasons may be multifaceted. One major reason could be the delay in the resolution of the final status of Kosovo. Another one could be the November 17 elections, which may have increased both the political awareness and the level of aggression among the people during polling time (October 2007).

Figure 1.3: Level of political pessimism and political protests by region



### Media and Public Services

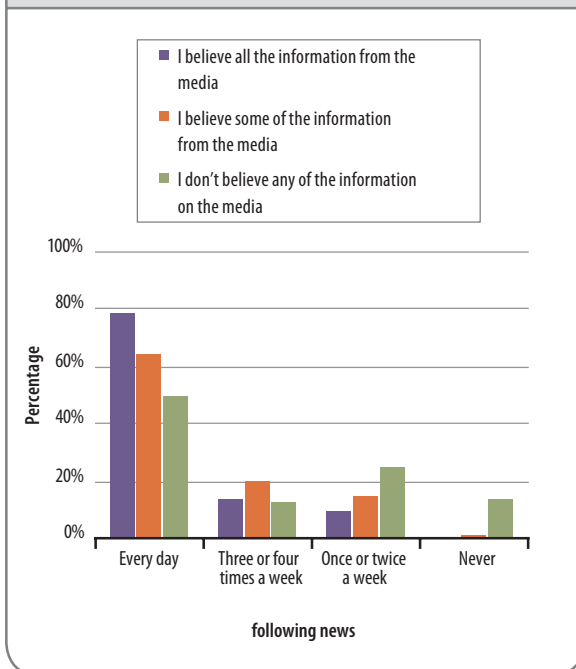
On average, over 62% of Kosovans follow the current news in the media everyday, while some 33% do so only occasionally (one to four times per week), and the rest simply never follow the news. In relation to the accuracy of information from the media, some 17% of respondents believe all of the information they get, while 15% believe none of the information. The bulk of respondents – 63% however – only partially believe the accuracy of the information they get from the media.

As expected, the ones who follow the current news everyday are those who also mainly believe in all of the information from the media (Figures 1.4). The trend here represents a positive correlation between believing in the information from the media and the frequency of following the news: the more you believe in the accuracy of the information from the media, the more news you follow, and vice-versa. It must be noted, however, that this relationship is only a correlation and does not necessarily prove any causal effects.

Grouped by age, the poll results show that the relatively older population (46+ years) represent the most dedicated news followers in Kosovo, as 77% of people who follow the current news in the media everyday are 46+ years of age (Figure 1.5). Among everyday news

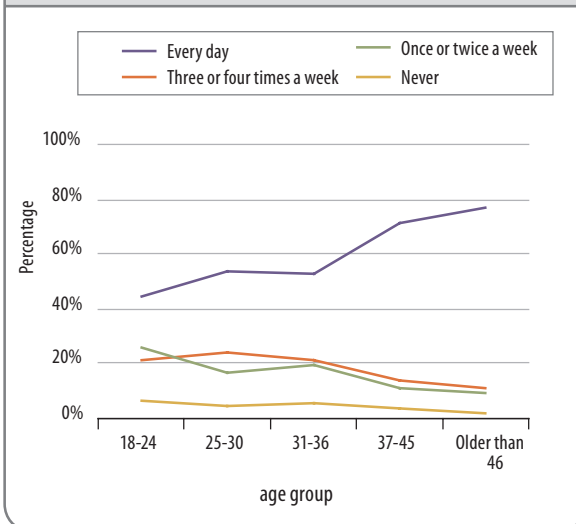
<sup>1</sup> OLS regression yields a statistically significant coefficient at 0.01 level of significance

**Figure 1.4:** Frequency of following news and believing in the information from the media



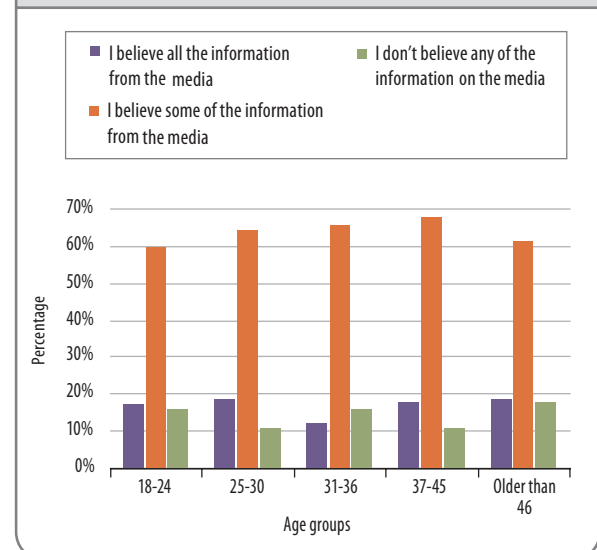
followers, the young adults represent the smallest group with only 45% of the daily news followers being in the age group 18 – 24 years old. It is interesting to note that this group of people (18-24 years) however, represents the largest group of those who follow the news in the media once or twice a week (26%).

**Figure 1.5:** Frequency of following the current news in the media by age group



As to believing the accuracy of information, not much difference is observed between different age groups. Most of the respondents, about 55% on average, across all age groups, tend to believe only some of the information they get from the media (Figure 1.6).

**Figure 1.6:** Age groups and believing in the information from the media

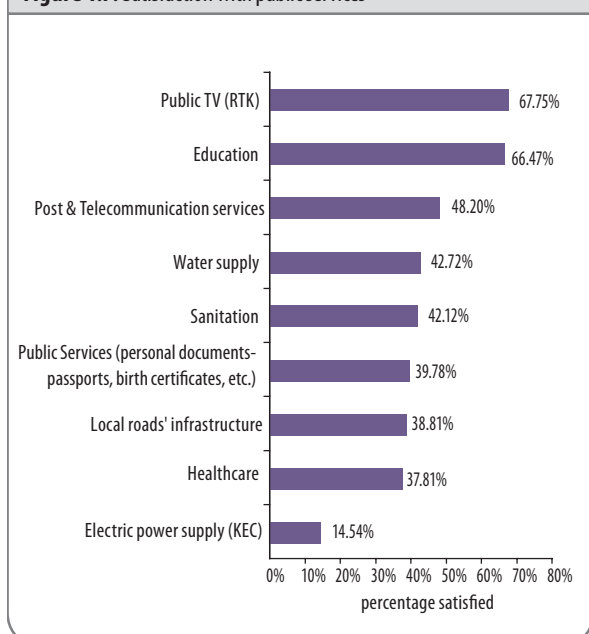


As opposed to the previous poll where education was the public service that most respondents were satisfied with (65%), the current poll results show the public radio-television of Kosovo, RTK, to be the public service that most respondents are satisfied with (68%) (Figure 1.7). Education is now ranked number two while RTK rose from fourth to first place.

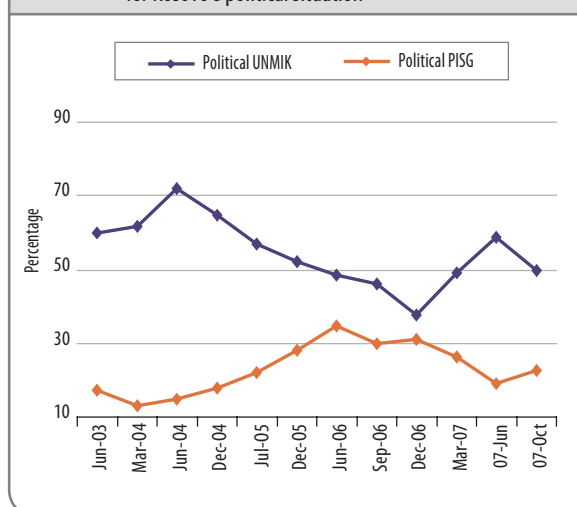
It is noteworthy to mention that except for education and public television, less than half of the respondents are satisfied with all other public services, such as post and telecommunications, water supply, sanitation, civil registry services, infrastructure, and health-care. This is a clear indication of the need for reform and increased effectiveness of these institutions so that more citizens will be satisfied with their services.

Electricity remains the lowest ranked public service – i.e. the public service that people are least satisfied with. The respondents' satisfaction with electricity (Kosovo Electrical Corporation, KEC) dropped by some six percentage points since the last poll of June 2007, standing now at only 14.5% far below other public services as seen in Figure 1.7.

**Figure 1.7:** Satisfaction with public services



**Figure 1.8:** Trend of respondents holding PISG or UNMIK responsible for Kosovo's political situation



The bottom line, however, remains that the majority of Kosovans hold UNMIK responsible for Kosovo's political situation. This indication is seen across Kosovo's main regions (Figure 1.9).

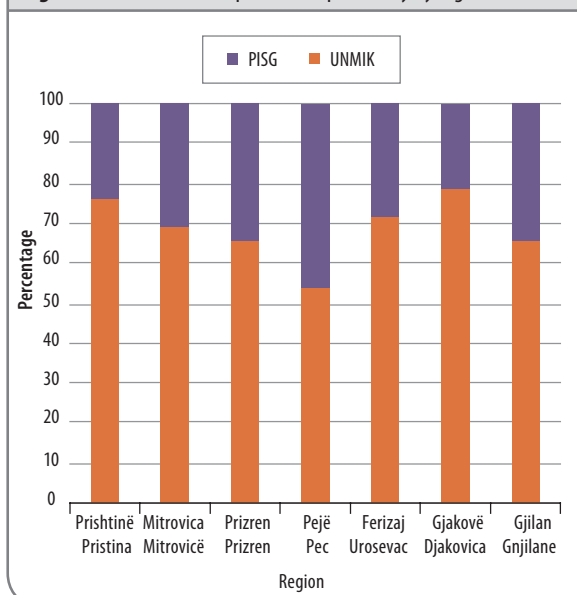
## II. Responsibility for Kosovo's Political Situation

### Who is responsible?

The October 2007 opinion poll indicates a change in the trend of respondents holding the PISG or UNMIK responsible for Kosovo's political situation. From December 2006 to June 2007, there was a continuous decrease in the number of respondents holding the PISG responsible for Kosovo's political situation, while that of UNMIK increased.

Between June and October 2007, however, there has been a four percentage point increase in those holding the PISG responsible for Kosovo's political situation and a nine percentage point decrease for UNMIK (Figure 1.8). It seems that a slightly greater number of Kosovans are now looking at their own institutions of self-government as being responsible for Kosovo's political situation. The last few months have seen numerous meetings between Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade, and between Prishtinë/Priština and the international community as part of the 120-day negotiations for the final status determination. Based on media highlights (attached at the end of the report), it seems that the Prishtinë/Priština leadership has mainly attributed the current political situation and the lack of clarity over the final status to both UNMIK and the international community – yet, it seems that an increasing number of Kosovans still think that the PISG are responsible for Kosovo's political situation.

**Figure 1.9:** Attribution of political responsibility by region

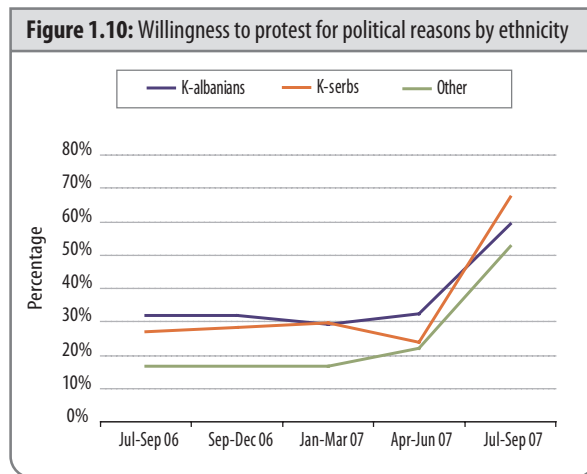


### Protesting for political reasons

After a relatively low percentage – between 17 and 32% – of people willing to protest for political reasons during the July 2006 – June 2007 reporting period, the October 2007 poll results show a significant increase in this indicator. Based on ethnicity, the October 2007 poll shows that some 60% of K-Albanians are willing to protest for political reasons; almost 70%

of K-Serbs and over 53% of Others would do so as well (Figure 1.10). K-Serbs are now the most willing group to protest for political reasons whereas in the June 2007 poll it was K-Albanians that were the most willing. The increase in willingness among K-Serbs' to protest may come from the fact that independence for Kosovo is becoming a more realistic option than ever before, whereas the increase in willingness among K-Albanians' may be due to the fact that many have lost patience with the numerous delays regarding their much expected independence.

All Kosovans, regardless of ethnicity, are now more willing to protest for political reasons than have been previously as can be seen in Figure 1.10. The unclear final status of Kosovo and the continued prolongation of its determination may well be the reason behind this increase.



### III. Final Status and the Kosovo Political Process

#### The Final Status Process

Unsurprisingly for the overwhelming majority of K-Albanians, independence for Kosovo within its present borders remains the best possible solution for Kosovo's final status (Table 1.1). However, according to this poll, fewer K-Albanians see independence within Kosovo's current borders as the best solution in comparison to the June 2007 poll. While there was a drop of some six percentage points for K-Albanians seeing independence as the best solution for Kosovo's final status, the percentage of them seeing unification with Albania as the best solution doubled.

K-Serbs continue to prefer autonomous status within Serbia as the best solution for Kosovo's final status. But, compared to the last poll, the number of K-Serbs, though very small, that now see independence within

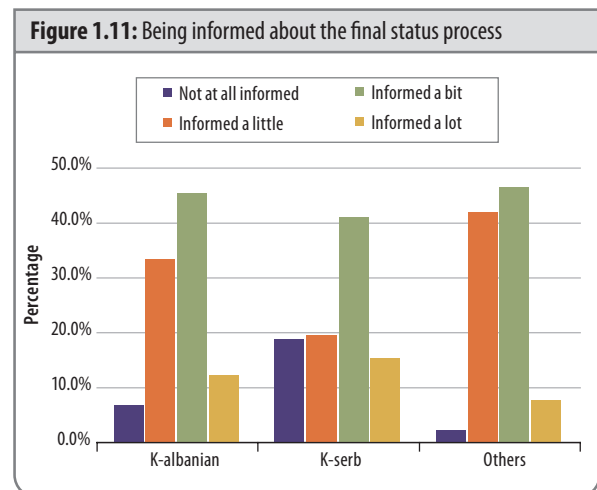
present borders as the best solution for Kosovo's final status has doubled – 2% now, compared to 1% according to the June 2007 poll results.

As for Other minorities, there has been an increase of some 20 percentage points for those who prefer independence within present borders as the final status for Kosovo (almost 90%) compared to last poll results when only 68% felt this way.

**Table 1.1: Best solution for Kosovo's final status**

Which solution do you think is the best for the future political status of Kosovo?	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others
Independence of Kosovo within present borders	89.29%	2.05%	88.70%
Partition of Kosovo	0.85%	4.51%	2.17%
Same as now (international protectorate)	1.09%		0.87%
Unification with Albania	6.33%		2.17%
Confederate state within Serbia, such as Montenegro	0.12%	2.05%	1.30%
Autonomous province within Serbia		89.75%	0.87%
DK/NA	2.31%	1.64%	3.91%
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

The overwhelming majority of Kosovans in general, state to be very little, if not at all, informed about the final status process. Over 75% of K-Albanians, 63% of K-Serbs as well as 82% of Other minorities are informed only a little about the final status process (Figure 1.11). Since final status resolution represents a major problem for Kosovans, this lack of information about its process is worrying, and could supposedly be due to lack of availability, lack of understanding, or lack of acceptance of such information by the public, and efforts to address this situation should be made as soon as possible.



Regarding the “120-day negotiations” process led by the Contact Group mandated Troika, Frank Wisner (USA), Wolfgang Ischinger (EU), and Alexandar Boscan Harchenko (Russia), Kosovans in general seem sceptical that this new round of negotiations between Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade will bring about a compromise. Only 15% of all respondents believe that this new round of negotiations will result in an eventual compromise, while the vast majority, some 60%, believes that no compromise will be reached.

The same overall trend is valid when respondents are divided based on ethnicity (Table 1.2). The overwhelming majority of K-Albanians, K-Serbs, and Other minorities believe that the 120-day period of negotiations will bring about no compromise. However, among those who have a slightly higher degree of hope that a compromise will be reached are K-Serbs 22% of whom believe that a compromise will be reached at the end of this new round of negotiations.

**Table 1.2:** Will the 120-day period of negotiations bring about a compromise between Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade?

Do you believe a compromise will be reached between Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade during this new 120-day period of negotiations?	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others
Yes	14.2%	21.7%	13.5%
No	64.2%	60.7%	43.5%
DK/NA	21.50%	17.60%	43.00%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

It is interesting to note that out of those who believe that this new period of negotiations will bring about a compromise, respondents from different ethnicities believe that the compromise will result in their favour (Table 1.3). Contrary to popular belief that if a compromise was reached during this 120-day period of negotiations, it would eventually result in the favour of Serbians, it seems that K-Albanian respondents believe that such a compromise, were it to happen would actually result in their favour. The majority of Other minorities also believe that any eventual compromise would result in the favour of K-Albanians.

**Table 1.3:** Beneficiaries an eventual compromise

If a compromise is reached, in whose favour will such compromise result?	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Other	Total
Kosovo Albanians	75.9%	7.4%	63.6%	52.5%
Kosovo Serbs	1.7%	41.2%	21.2%	17.1%
Other minorities	1.7%	1.5%		1.4%
Serbia		29.4%		9.2%
Kosovo	12.9%	5.9%	9.1%	10.1%
DK/NA	7.80%	14.70%	6.10%	9.70%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Out of those who believe that no compromise will be reached between Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade - which is the majority of Kosovans (60%) - most of them, some 40%, believe that Kosovo should declare independence unilaterally and implement the Ahtisaari plan, while only 13% believe that Kosovo should declare independence unilaterally and discard the Ahtisaari plan. In between these two extremes, some 21% believe that Kosovo should continue cooperating with the international community on how to proceed further, and some 16% believe that Kosovo should continue negotiations with Belgrade and the international community.

Based on ethnicity (Table 1.4), the overwhelming majority of K-Albanians (54%) believe that Kosovo should declare independence unilaterally and implement the Ahtisaari plan, whereas only 1% of K-Albanians believe that Kosovo should continue negotiations with Belgrade and the international community. On the other hand, the overwhelming majority of K-Serbs (66.5%) believe that Kosovo should continue negotiations with Belgrade and the international community, and some 21% of K-Serbs believe that Kosovo should continue cooperating with the international community on how to proceed further, while none would want Kosovo to declare any kind of independence. Most of the Other minorities (33%) also believe that Kosovo should declare independence unilaterally and implement the Ahtisaari plan.

From a public point of view, therefore, it seems that for most people, the best reaction for Kosovo, if the 120-day period of negotiations ends without a compromise, is to declare independence unilaterally and implement the Ahtisaari plan.

**Table 1.4:** What should Kosovo do in case of no compromise?

<i>If no compromise is reached, do you think that Kosovo should:</i>	<i>K-Albanian</i>	<i>K-Serb</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total</i>
Declare independence unilaterally and discard the Ahtisaari	16.9%		13.6%	12.8%
Declare independence unilaterally and implement the Ahtisaari plan	54.4%		33.0%	39.9%
Continue cooperating with the international community on how to proceed	18.7%	21.2%	29.1%	20.6%
Continue negotiations with Belgrade and international community	1.1%	66.5%	5.8%	15.9%
DK/NA	8.90%	12.30%	18.50%	10.80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

However, if no independence is achieved after the 120-day period of negotiations, most Kosovans (40%) would protest peacefully in response, while another 20% would not do anything (Table 1.5). On the other hand, a small number of Kosovans stated that they would pick up weapons to protect Kosovo (10%), while some 4% would protest aggressively. Compared to the last report, the number of Kosovans that would pick up weapons to protect Kosovo has increased by some seven percentage points, while the number of those that would protest aggressively has also increased by some two percentage points.

At the same time, the number of Kosovans that would protest peacefully has increased since the last reporting period by some four percentage points along with the number of those that would not do anything, which has increased by some two percentage points.

This same trend of reactions is present region-wise. A case in focus here, however, would be the region of Gjilan/Gnjilane. According to the last poll, about 13% of Gjilan/Gnjilane respondents said that they would pick up weapons to protect Kosovo – a reaction that might have been triggered by the decentralization plan that mostly affects Gjilan/Gnjilane. Now, only 2.5% of respondents from Gjilan/Gnjilane would react by picking up weapons in the event of no independence for Kosovo after the 120-day period of negotiations

### **Political Process and Elections**

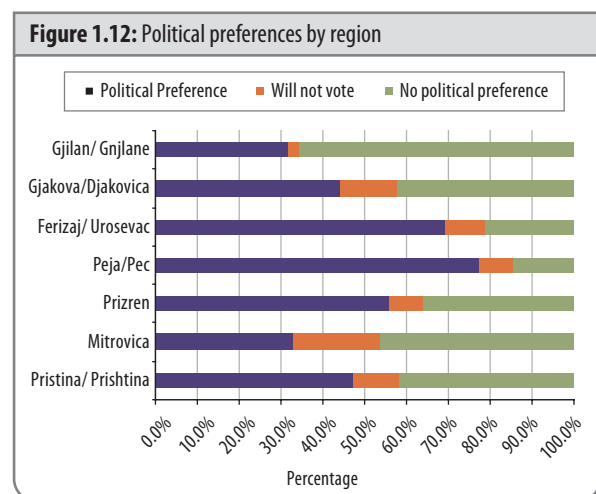
While the internal political process of Kosovo seems to be developing quietly and democratically, political participation is decreasing. Needless to say, just like in many other developing and transition countries, Kosovo's political process is also developed around political parties – both large and small.

When asked about their political preferences, compared to the last poll, the number of those lacking any political preference seems to have increased in several major Kosovo regions – such as Prishtinë/Priština (by some 12 percentage points), Gjakovë/Djakovica (by 26 percentage points), Prizren (by eight percentage points), and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica (by 16 percentage points). A decrease in the number of those lacking any political preference has dropped in Ferizaj/Uroševac (by 10 percentage points), and Pejë/Peć (by 21 per-

**Table 1.5:** Reactions of people if no independence is reached by the end of the 120-negotiations process

<i>If Kosovo does not get independence after the 120-day period of negotiations mediated by the Troika, what will your reaction be :</i>	<i>REGION</i>						
	<i>Prishtinë Pristina</i>	<i>Mitrovica Mitrovicë</i>	<i>Prizren Prizren</i>	<i>Pejë Pec</i>	<i>Ferizaj Urosevac</i>	<i>Gjakovë Djakovica</i>	<i>Gjilan Gnjilane</i>
I may pick up weapons to protect Kosovo	9.9%	14.5%	9.2%	13.1%	7.4%	9.0%	2.5%
I would protest aggressively on street	3.1%	1.3%	4.4%	5.5%	11.7%	1.3%	1.7%
I would protest peacefully	46.1%	25.4%	41.4%	35.2%	46.8%	35.9%	45.8%
Leave Kosovo	7.1%	3.1%	2.7%	4.8%	1.1%	3.8%	5.9%
I would not do anything	11.5%	26.8%	21.0%	23.4%	4.3%	24.4%	24.6%
I would celebrate	4.6%	16.7%	7.8%		1.1%	1.3%	
DK/NA	17.70%	12.30%	13.60%	18.00%	27.70%	24.30%	19.50%
<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

centage points). Gjilan/Gnjilane has remained at the same level as before, with some 65% of respondents having no political preference (Figure 1.12).



When asked about whether both local and national or just one set of elections should be held in November 2007, most of the respondents in general thought that both local and national elections should be held (Table 1.6).

**Table 1.6: What elections should Kosovo hold in November 2007?**

In your opinion, please tell us which of the following elections should be held this November	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Other	Total
Local Elections Only	24.3%	20.1%	23.5%	23.4%
National Elections Only	3.0%	6.1%	8.3%	4.6%
Both Local and National Elections	51.7%	6.6%	44.3%	41.9%
DK/NA	21.00%	67.20%	23.90%	30.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The majority of K-Albanians (52%) and Other minorities (44%) believe that both local and national elections should be held in November 2007, as opposed to K-Serbs, most of whom (37%) did not answer or did not know.

In general, most of the respondents are in support of open-list voting. Based on ethnicity, as seen from Table 1.7, the overwhelming majority of K-Albanians (84.5%) and Other minorities (77%) are in favour of open-list voting,<sup>2</sup> as opposed to the K-Serbs, most of whom (34%) are not in favour of open-list voting. The

November 2007 elections presented open-list voting for the first time in Kosovo and it seems that the majority of the people are were in favour of this voting model.

**Table 1.7: Support for open-list voting**

Do you support open-list voting?	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	Total
Yes	84.5%	16.0%	77.0%	70.3%
No	5.0%	34.0%	6.5%	10.7%
DK/NA	10.50%	50.00%	16.50%	19.00%
<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

In addition, the vast majority of respondents (of all ethnicities) believe that municipal mayors should be elected directly through popular vote. Over 91% of K-Albanians, over 43% of K-Serbs, and 73% of Other minorities are in favour of electing municipal mayors directly (Table 1.8).

**Table 1.8: Support for direct election of mayors**

Are you in favour of electing municipal Mayors directly through popular vote?	K-Albanian	K-Serb	K-Others	Total
Yes	91.4%	43.4%	73.0%	79.1%
No	1.8%	24.6%	7.4%	7.1%
DK/NA	6.80%	31.90%	19.60%	13.80%
<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

#### IV. Conclusions of the Expert Group on Institutional and Political Stability Issues

According to the Expert Group convened to discuss the results of this EWS Opinion Poll, the following are worrying trends that require special attention:

- The overall decrease in the percentage of respondents who are satisfied with governing institutions in Kosovo both local and international, and especially with the work of the PISG and the SRSB. Specifically worrying is the fact that no elected institution in Kosovo enjoys the trust of more than 40% of respondents.

<sup>2</sup> Open List Voting is a new voting system implemented in Kosovo for the first time since the first Kosovo elections were held in 2000. Open List Voting enable voters to vote for up to 10 candidates within the list of their preferred party for both the Parliament and Municipal Assembly elections. Closed list voting, which Kosovo used until now, enabled voters to only vote for a party or independent candidate but not for specific individuals within the preferred party.

- The 35% increase since June 2007 increase in the number of respondents who would join protests due to the political situation.
- The high number of respondents dissatisfied with current political developments.
- The very high number of people who will not vote or who do not know for whom they will vote, this is especially strong among the K-Serb population.
- The high number of people without any political preference in Gjilan/Gnjilane and Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica regions.
- The small number of respondents who feel that they are very well informed about Kosovo's final status process.
- Continued stark differences between K-Albanians and K-Serbs on Kosovo's final status.
- The high number of respondents who consider that negotiations between Prishtinë/Priština and Belgrade would fail.
- The difference in opinion among K-Albanians and K-Serbs about what the Kosovo government should do in the event that the negotiations fail.
- High expectations among different ethnicities in regards to compromise on status; while more than 70% of K-Albanians think that compromise will be in their favour a similar number of K-Serbs think that the compromise will be in their favour and that of Serbia.

*The following factors have been identified by the Expert Group as elements contributing to institutional and political instability:*

- High expectations that the status issue will be resolved by the end of 2007 while postponement of a decision on final status and further disagreements within the international community on Kosovo's status remain possibilities.
- According to the Expert Group, one major problem in relation to political stability is that social, gender and youth issues are totally disregarded in the political debate in Kosovo.
- The decline in the authority of the PISG over Kosovo's political status and the loss of trust in

the PISG institutions for their inability to solve political issues.

- The continued presence of Serbian parallel structures in Kosovo, hindering the inclusion and participation of K-Serbs into Kosovo's society.
- Discontinuity between media reporting and actions by institutions especially with regard to the Public Prosecutor's Office; although there are numerous reports in the media on mismanagement and corruption within institutions there are very few actions by the responsible institutions in relation to these charges.
- Lack of free movement of Kosovans outside of Kosovo travelling on documents provided by UNMIK coupled with the need to provide extensive documents for visas and a high rate of denial for EU visas.
- Loss of legitimacy of the Unity Team as a result of changes in the composition of the Kosovo Assembly as a result of the elections.
- Low transparency in regard to the future process of status negotiations.
- Lack of application of the law on access to public documents due to classification of many documents as "not for public".

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**Quote:**<sup>3</sup> *"Just Macedonia, Albania, and Montenegro allow Kosovans to enter without visa. All other countries require an extensive list of documents for the provision of visas which are usually delivered in the offices outside of Kosovo. This is creating a sense of alienation from Europe and the opinion that we are living in a concentration camp."*

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*Possible alarming scenarios identified by the Expert Group:*

- The lack of political debate on gender, youth and overall social issues will, in the long run, create marginalized groups who will try to express their dissatisfaction outside of the system which has the potential to lead to political destabilization and protests.

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<sup>3</sup> All highlighted quotes in the conclusion chapters of this report come from the Expert Group meetings and are thus attributed to the Expert Group

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**Quote:** *“Existence of female forums and of youth forums within main political parties is an act of elegant exclusion of these groups from political party structures and decision-making processes.”*

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- The perceived disconnection between corruption cases reported in the media and legal actions against corruption creates dissatisfaction and lack of trust toward institutions as well as increasing support for organizations that seek solutions outside the system. The small number of legal cases in relation to corruption may also increase dissatisfaction and strengthen the perception that there is no rule of law.
- Creation of alienation and animosity toward EU countries as a result of barriers to freedom of movement such as complicated visa application processes, which is further influenced by the non-inclusion of Kosovo in the “liberalisation act” for EU visa requirements to citizens of Western Balkan countries.
- The further extension of negotiations over the status of Kosovo and further disagreements within the international community on the future of Kosovo might help extreme groups (both K-Albanian and K-Serb) gain support and lead them to attempt unilateral acts.
- In order to address the issues affecting institutional and political stability the following actions are recommended by the Expert Group:
- Institutions and especially the Prosecutor’s Office should be more sensitive to media reporting and especially to the General Auditor’s report. At the very least they should initiate preliminary investigations on cases that are debated extensively in the media. This would help create more trust in the relevant institutions and in cases where the allegations prove incorrect it will provide the public evidence that “not everything is corrupt”.
- Political parties should create mechanisms for the female and youth participation in decision-making either by providing a certain number of seats in the leading boards of parties to youth and female forums or by providing direct access for these groups to political party boards.
- The Kosovo Government and especially the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Justice should take the issue of liberalization of visas more seriously by trying to meet the requirements for European Partnership which might indirectly lead to agreements for inclusion of Kosovo in the liberalization of visas within the EU.
- Increased cooperation between UNMIK, PISG, KFOR and KPS is needed in order to ensure stability and to localise extreme groups during the forthcoming period when Kosovo’s status will be discussed in international circles.
- The small number of respondents who feel informed about Kosovo’s status is worrying in that it can create opposition to any kind of resolution. The provision of better information and specific actions for increasing the visibility of decision-making and public information on the negotiations are both essential in order to increase the cooperation of the media and to promote public support. This can be fulfilled by regular press conferences with the Unity Team where developments on the negotiations are presented and discussed.
- Full implementation of the law on access to public documents and publication of procedures of classification of documents (such as public and non-public).

## Chapter 2

### KOSOVO'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STABILITY

#### I. An Overall Economic Outlook

As expected, most Kosovans (34%) believe that uncertainty over Kosovo's final status represents the paramount problem facing Kosovo, followed by poverty (18%), and unemployment (17%). The number of respondents seeing the final status as the paramount problem facing Kosovo has slightly increased by some three percentage points, while unemployment (which was tied with final status at about 31% in the last poll), seems to have significantly dropped

to about 17%. Based on a first glance from the October 2007 poll results presented in Table 2.1, it appears that the paramount problem facing Kosovo is political – the uncertainty over final status. But on closer inspection and considering the other main problems - such as poverty and unemployment which taken together were identified by 36% of respondents - issues related to economic development surpass status as the paramount problem facing Kosovo today.

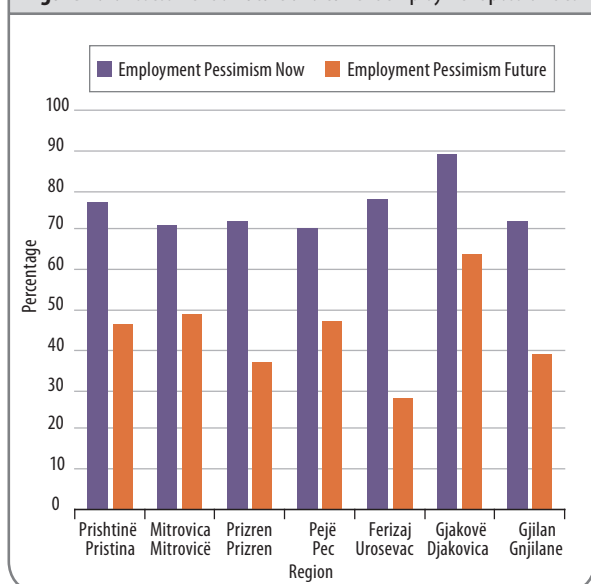
On a regional basis, poverty and unemployment taken together represent the paramount problem facing Kosovo followed by uncertainty over final status in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Prizren, Ferizaj/Uroševac, and Gjakovë/Djakovica while uncertainty over final status represents the paramount problem followed by poverty and unemployment taken together in Prishtinë/Priština, Pejë/Peć, and Gjiilan/Gnjilane.

**Table 2.1:** The paramount problem facing Kosovo

<i>Please identify one of the following problems which you think represents the paramount problem facing Kosovo</i>	<i>Prishtinë Prishtina</i>	<i>Mitrovica Mitrovicë</i>	<i>Prizren Prizren</i>	<i>Pejë Peć</i>	<i>Ferizaj Uroševac</i>	<i>Gjakovë Djakovica</i>	<i>Gjiilan Gnjilane</i>	<i>Total</i>
Road infrastructure	0.93	7.89					0.85	1.72
Electric energy supply	4.64	3.95	12.88	5.52	4.26	1.28	11.86	6.95
Urban-space problems (illegal construction)	0.31	0.44	0.34				0.85	0.31
Environment pollution		1.75	0.34					0.39
Poverty	21.67	19.74	20.34	7.59	25.53	11.54	12.71	18.27
Prices	0.62	1.75	1.36	2.76	2.13		0.85	1.33
Healthcare services	0.31	0.44	0.34	1.38			0.85	0.47
Public and personal security	1.24	8.77	1.69	0.69	1.06		0.85	2.50
Education	0.62	1.75	1.02	0.69	2.13			0.94
Interethnic relations	0.62	2.63	1.36	0.69	3.19			1.25
Unemployment	13.93	11.84	15.59	26.90	19.15	51.28	5.93	17.33
Uncertainty over final status of Kosovo	44.89	22.37	33.22	40.00	20.21	19.23	43.22	34.11
Undesirable final status outcome	1.86	2.19	2.71	0.69	4.26	5.13	2.54	2.42
Social problems (pensions, invalids, orphans etc.)	0.62	0.88	1.36	3.45	7.45	1.28	0.85	1.72
The fate of missing persons	1.24	0.88	1.36	0.69	2.13	6.41		1.41
Organized crime	2.79	2.19	0.68	2.07	3.19	1.28	2.54	2.03
Unsolved killings and murders	0.31	0.88	0.68	0.69				0.47
Corruption	1.55	1.32	3.73	4.83	5.32	2.56	3.39	2.89
Unsocial behaviour (prostitution, drug, alcoholism, trafficking)		2.63	0.34					0.55
Other. Which?	1.24	5.26	0.34					1.33
NA	0.62	0.44	0.34	1.38			12.71	1.64
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

While all of Kosovo's regions are very dissatisfied with the current employment possibilities, it seems that the perceptions for future employment possibilities are higher than the levels indicated by the previous poll of June 2007. Currently, the gap between unemployment pessimism now and future employment pessimism seems to be higher (30%) than in the previous poll (15%). This clearly indicates that in all of Kosovo's regions, people are generally very hopeful for more employment possibilities in the future.

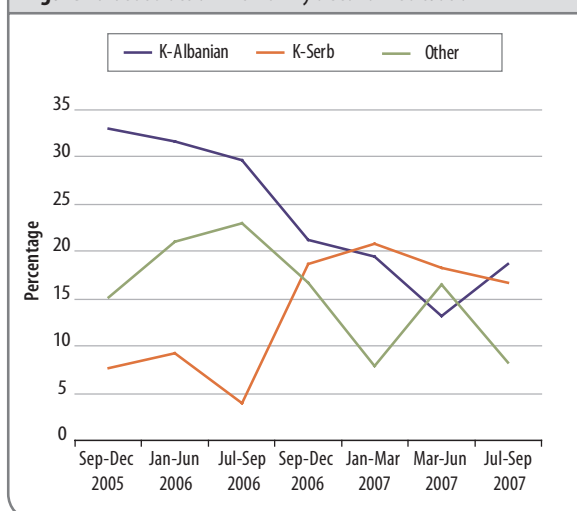
**Figure 2.1:** Assessment of future and current employment possibilities



Satisfaction of respondents with their family's economic situation seems to have taken a downwards turn for K-Serbs and Other minorities since the April-June 2007 reporting period, whereas for the K-Albanians satisfaction has increased. Nevertheless, for all Kosovans, the satisfaction with their family's economic situation remains significantly low – at only 19% for K-Albanians, 17% for K-Serbs, and 8% for Other minorities (Figure 2.2).

The six percentage point increase among K-Albanians in satisfaction with their family's economic situation may have come from their expectations in relation to future employment possibilities due to the clearer prospects for Kosovo's final status definition. Another factor that could have contributed to this increase may be due to the remittances and other funds they might have received over the summer from their family and friends abroad. The same theory could be valid for K-Serbs, whose satisfaction with their family's economic situation may have decreased simply based on expectations that Kosovo's final status will bring about independence, which they traditionally continue to view as an impediment to their life and prosperity here.

**Figure 2.2:** Satisfaction with family's economic situation



Looking at the changes in household's income compared to last year, across all ethnicities most of the respondents stated that their family's income has remained the same (60%). For some K-Albanians (12%) however, the family's income has increased a little, the same happened for just 8% of K-Serbs and only 4% of Other minorities (Table 2.2). On the other hand, the family's income has decreased a little for 21% of K-Albanians, 18% of K-Serbs and 21% of Other minorities. Extreme positive changes in the family's income seem to have happened to only 2% of K-Albanians and 1% of Other minorities, whereas extreme negative changes seem to have happened to some 7% of K-Albanians, 9% of K-Serbs, and some 8% of Other minorities. Therefore, overall if there were changes in the family's income for Kosovans, such changes were generally more negative than positive.

**Table 2.2:** Changes in family income compared to last year

Compared to Last Year, how much has your family's income changed?	Ethnicity grouped three			Total
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	
It has increased considerably	1.7%		0.9%	1.2%
It has increased a little	12.0%	8.2%	4.3%	10.0%
It has remained the same	57.5%	63.1%	66.1%	60.1%
It has decreased a little	21.2%	18.0%	20.9%	20.5%
It has decreased considerably	6.6%	9.4%	7.8%	7.3%
DK/NA	1.0%	1.2%	0.0%	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As can be seen in Table 2.3, the overwhelming majority of Kosovans of all ethnicities (83.5%) have experienced neither a loss nor a gain in employment over the last six months. It should be noted, however,

that only 8% of K-Albanians, 6% of K-Serbs, and 1% of Other minorities experienced a job gain in the last six months, while some 5% of K-Albanians, 6% of K-Serbs, and 7% of Other minorities experienced a job loss in the last six months. This is a strong indication of a stagnated economy where job prospects and economic development seem still quite far away for the majority of Kosovans.

**Table 2.3:** Changes in employment within family in the last six months

With regard to employment in the last 6 months did anybody in your family?	Ethnicity grouped three			Total
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	K-Others	
Get a Job	8.0%	6.1%	0.9%	6.4%
Lose a Job	4.9%	6.1%	7.0%	5.5%
Both	3.0%	1.2%	2.2%	2.5%
Neither	82.5%	84.4%	86.1%	83.5%
DK/NA	1.60%	2.00%	3.90%	2.10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As far as business activity is concerned in the last six months, the overwhelming majority of Kosovans of all ethnicities (90%) have neither started nor closed a business (Table 2.4). Only about 4% of K-Albanians and 1% of Other minorities stated that they have started a new business in the period of July – September 2007, while some 2% of K-Albanians and 1% of K-Serbs and 0.4% of Other minorities closed a business within this reporting period.

**Table 2.4:** Business activity in the last six months

With regard to business, in the last 6 months did anybody in your family?	Ethnicity grouped three			Total
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	
Start a business [shop, factory]	3.6%		1.3%	2.5%
Close a business	1.9%	1.2%	0.4%	1.5%
Both	1.5%	0.4%	1.3%	1.2%
Neither	89.4%	81.6%	95.2%	89.0%
Other	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%
DK/NA	2.90%	16.00%	0.90%	5.00%
<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

One major reason for the lack of business activity seems to be the respondents' perception that Kosovo does not offer favourable conditions for starting and operating a business. Most Kosovans of all ethnicities (55%), believe that current business conditions are unfavourable (Table 2.5). Some 20% of Kosovans believe that business conditions are neither favourable nor unfavourable, and only 5% of Kosovans believe that these conditions are favourable.

**Table 2.5:** Assessment of current business conditions

What is your assessment of the current business conditions?	Ethnicity grouped three			Total
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	
Unfavourable	51.6%	61.5%	58.7%	54.7%
Neither favourable nor unfavourable	20.0%	23.8%	13.5%	19.5%
Favourable	6.3%	1.2%	3.0%	4.8%
DK/NA	22.10%	13.50%	24.70%	21.00%
<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## II. Responsibility for the Economic Situation and Potential for Protests due to Economic Reasons

Before looking at who the respondents identify as responsible for the economic situation of Kosovo, it is important to have a look at the satisfaction of Kosovans with the manner of spending of the Kosovo Consolidated Budget (KCB). Overall, the majority of Kosovans (65%) of all ethnicities are dissatisfied and very dissatisfied with the manner of spending of the KCB (Table 2.6). Only about 5% of K-Albanians, some 2% of K-Serbs, and 5% of other minorities are satisfied and very satisfied with the KCB spending, while about 69% of K-Albanians, 46% of K-Serbs, and 61% of Other minorities are dissatisfied and very dissatisfied with KCB spending. This is a strong indication that the KCB may be spent on issues and activities that do not necessarily match the needs of most Kosovans.

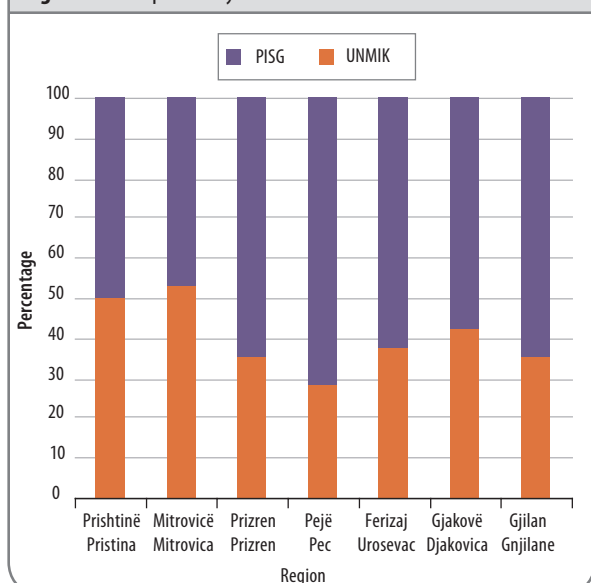
**Table 2.6:** Satisfaction with the spending manner of the KCB

How satisfied are you with the spending manner of Kosovo's Consolidated Budget?	Ethnicity grouped three			Total
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	
Very Satisfied	0.5%	1.2%		0.5%
Satisfied	4.7%	1.2%	5.2%	4.2%
Neutral	17.8%	13.1%	20.0%	17.3%
Dissatisfied	35.9%	24.6%	41.7%	34.8%
Very Dissatisfied	33.0%	31.1%	19.6%	30.2%
DK/NA	8.10%	28.60%	13.50%	13.00%
<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Turning to perceptions of responsibility for Kosovo's economic situation, the majority of respondents (58%) believe the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government are most responsible. Attribution of responsibility to the PISG has decreased by some eight percentage points since the poll of June 2007 when it was 66%.

According to the October 2007 poll the number of respondents holding UNMIK most responsible for Kosovo’s economic situation has increased to 42% from 34% in the previous poll. However, the PISG– even across regions, except for Prishtinë/Priština and Mitrovicë/Mitrovica – are still thought to be most responsible for economic conditions in Kosovo (Figure 2.3).

**Figure 2.3: Responsibility for the economic situation**



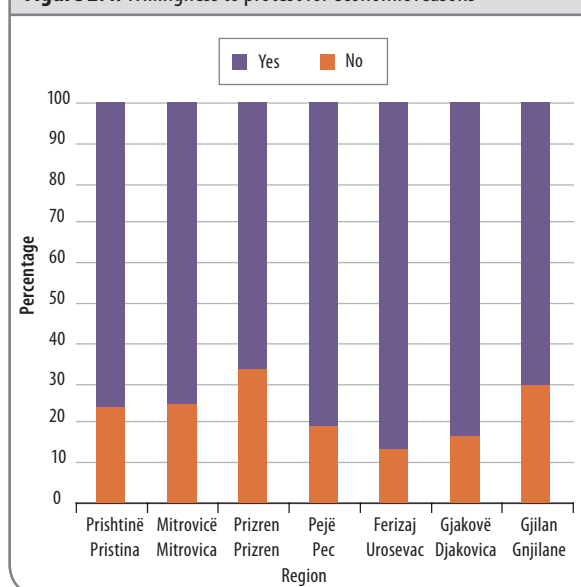
Dissatisfaction with Kosovo’s economic situation is high and may trigger social instability. About 75% of Kosovans are willing to protest due to economic reasons, which is quite higher than the willingness to protest for political reasons (about 60%). This is a very significant indicator of the possibility for social unrest and the fragility of the calm that currently exists.

Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjakovë/Djakovica, and Pejë/Peć are three regions where people are most willing to protest for economic reasons, followed by Prishtinë/Priština, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and Gjilan/Gnjilane and Prizren which is the region with the least, yet quite high (67%), willingness to protest for economic reasons (Figure 2.4).

Out of those willing to protest for economic reasons, only half would be ready to protest for political reasons.<sup>4</sup> This shows clearly that economic problems over-take political ones when it comes to people’s general readiness to take to the streets.

The economic situation of Kosovo could be easily affected by the existence of large-scale corruption or the

**Figure 2.4: Willingness to protest for economic reasons**



popular perceptions thereof. Compared to the previous poll results, the October 2007 poll shows that KEK and KTA still maintain their first and second position respectively, in the ranking of Kosovo’s institutions where most large scale corruption exists. According to the June 2007 poll, central government held third place but in the October 2007 poll central government has been overtaken by customs and is now ranked four. About 72% of respondents believe that there is large scale corruption in KEK, followed by the KTA at 53% and Customs with 44% (Figure 2.5).

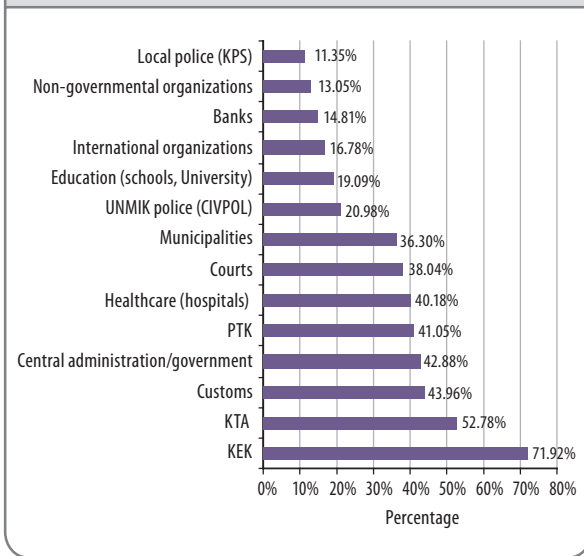
Among the institutions with the least large scale corruption are KPS, NGOs, Banks, and International Organizations. In the previous poll, UNMIK Police, NGOs, and International Organizations held the second, third, and fourth place respectively. Now, UNMIK police is ranked fifth. Banks seem to have made some progress – being perceived as less corrupt now than in the previous poll where they ranked eighth.

According to the October 2007 poll more Kosovans of all ethnicities reported conditioning of some public service delivery on bribes, gifts, and other favours.

Some 11% of K-Albanians, 10% of K-Serbs, and 7% of Other minorities reported such conditioning. While these numbers may seem relatively small any corruption is a major problem for development and the increasing trend in this regard during 2007 is worrying.

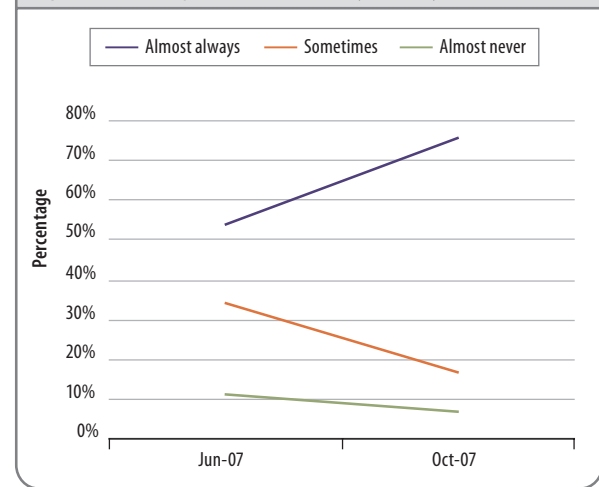
<sup>4</sup> Pearson correlation coefficient 0.523, statistically significant at 99% level of confidence

**Figure 2.5:** Presence of large scale corruption in Kosovo's institutions

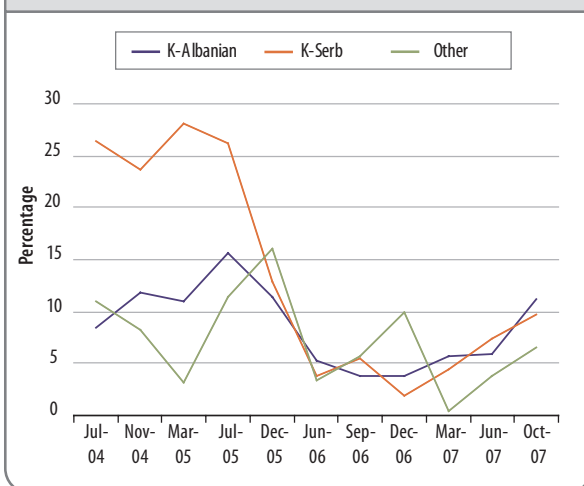


all ethnicities feel worried or anxious during the day (Figure 2.7).

**Figure 2.7:** Feeling worried or anxious by ethnicity

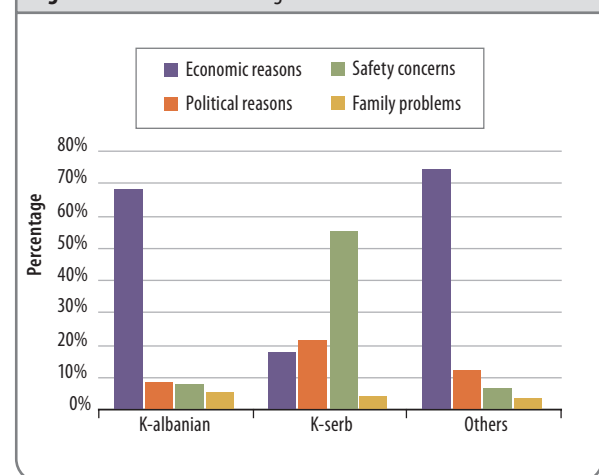


**Figure 2.6:** Conditioning of public service delivery on bribes, gifts, and other favours



The main source of worries and anxiety differ according to ethnicity – for K-Albanians and Other ethnicities the main reasons for their anxiety are economic, while for K-Serbs it is security concerns (Figure 2.8).

**Figure 2.8:** Reasons for feeling worried or anxious



As stated at the beginning of this chapter, lack of economic prosperity is the paramount problem facing Kosovo today. This claim is further backed by the fact that most Kosovans who feel worried or anxious during the day, do so because of economic reasons. Only 4.5% of K-Serbs, 5% of Other ethnicities and 12% of K-Albanians reported that they do not feel worried or anxious during the day, while the vast majority of

Therefore, fast and sustainable economic progress is a must for Kosovo and would most likely promote a more peaceful society and an environment of equal rights and responsibilities for all Kosovans.

### III. Conclusions of the Expert Group on Economic and Social Stability Issues

According to the Expert Group convened to discuss the results of this EWS Opinion Poll, the following are worrying trends that require special attention:

- The 20% increase since June 2007 in respondents declaring their readiness to join public protests about the current economic situation in Kosovo.
- The high level of respondents stating that unemployment and poverty represent the most important issue faced by Kosovo; these two responses combined represent more than 36% of responses.
- The high percentage of respondents reporting a decrease in family income as compared to one year ago.
- The high percentage of respondents who feel worried or anxious during the day due to economic reasons especially among K-Albanians and Other minorities.
- The low number of people who have found new jobs, most notably for non-Serb minorities.
- Strong dissatisfaction with business conditions in Kosovo and that conditions are assessed as not being conducive to businesses.
- The high number of people dissatisfied with the management of Kosovo's Consolidated Budget.
- The very high number of young respondents that report having plans to leave Kosovo, especially among members of minorities in Kosovo.

The following factors have been identified by Expert Group discussions as elements contributing to Economic and Social instability:

- Reported decrease in remittances from Diaspora.
- Extent of the informal economy which forces some to hide incomes and under-report for lower payment of taxes.
- Widespread perceptions of corruption.
- Further negative influence of the uncertainty over Kosovo's status on Foreign Direct Invest-

ments and overall investments in Kosovo; whereby the majority of are in the service sector and housing with a very small percentage in production and other long term return investments.

- The selective and incomplete implementation of many laws endorsed by the Kosovo Assembly.
- Overall small proportion of capital investments by government and municipalities.
- Problems with electricity and other public services.
- Inefficient monitoring capacities of government in relation to the informal economy especially with regard to building and renting.

Possible alarming scenarios identified by Expert Groups:

- Decrease of trust toward institutions and widespread perception of corruption can lead people not to fulfil their obligations as citizens with regard to payment of public services as well as taxes.
- Widespread unplanned and unlicensed "building boom" creates a tense situation whereby citizens who are fulfilling their obligations feel alienated and try to escape obligations.
- The expert group emphasized that the current relations between governing institutions (central and local) and Kosovo's residents are tense. Strong levels of dissatisfaction with the allocation of funds from the Kosovo Consolidated Budget (KCB), and its overall management are perhaps a reflection of this stressed relationship which could pose a problem for the implementation of laws, policies and mechanisms that require the cooperation of residents.
- If Kosovo's status is resolved, respondent's dissatisfaction and concerns about employment and poverty will be more pronounced. Circumstances for social tension may arise and may be exhibited in various forms including violence.
- Very low confidence in the courts and a further drop to 18% in the October 2007 poll is worrying as it creates problems with investors; people will hesitate to invest if confidence in courts is low and where enforcement of contracts is slow and perhaps uncertain.

*In order to address Economic and Social issues the following actions are recommended by the Expert Group:*

- Fiscal reformation especially simplification and decrease of various taxes at both municipal and central level.
- Simplification of building permits, especially by municipalities. This could bring some order and control to widespread illegal building and create further funds for municipalities to provide basic infrastructure and public services to these neighbourhoods. Municipalities and central authorities should work more rigorously on the enforcement of rules and regulations with regard to illegal building, this might be done by operational and political support to enforcement offices in municipalities but also by the creation of new structures and the strengthening of cooperation with the KPS and citizens.

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**Quote:** *“Changes in relations between governance and people, whereby the change of mentality from governors to that of servants is needed.”*

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- Since many issues related to the economy are not directly linked with the status of Kosovo, the government should create a list of priorities with regard to capital investments and start the implementation of these priorities.
- Apart from auditing and policy evaluation, projects and programmes should be introduced in order to ensure that institutions are responsible and accountable to the public for spending and investment.

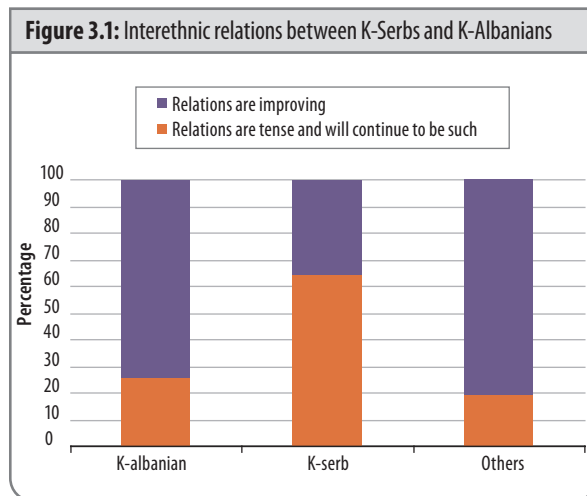


## Chapter 3

### INTERETHNIC RELATIONS

#### I. Main Trends

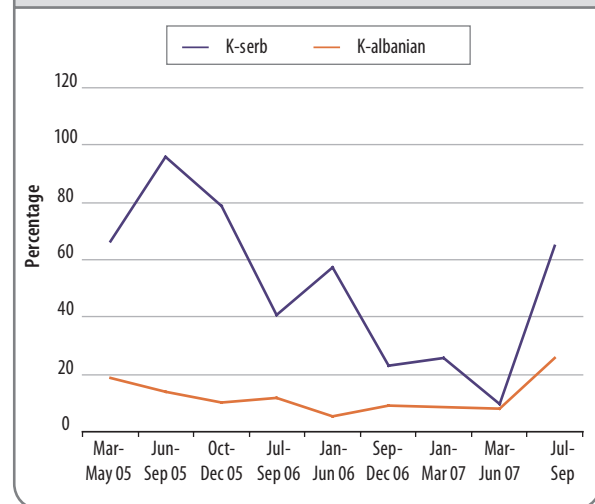
Though most of K-Albanian respondents and other minorities continue to believe that interethnic relations are improving (74% and 80%, respectively), only 35% of K-Serbs believe the same (Figure 3.1). There has been a drastic shift in the perceptions of K-Serbs in this regard. According to the previous poll of June 2007, over 90% of K-Serbs believed that interethnic relations were improving, while in the October 2007 poll only 35% of K-Serbs believe this. The number of K-Albanians that continue to believe that relations are improving has also dropped in comparison with the June 2007 poll from 92% to 80% in October 2007. A similar drop also occurred among Other minorities from 95% in June 2007 believing relations are improving to 80% in October 2007.



As can be seen in Figure 3.2, since the April-June 2007 reporting period there has been a steep increase in the trend of respondents believing that interethnic relations continue to be tense and not improving. Currently 65% of K-Serbs (as opposed to 10% in June 2007) believe that relations continue to be tense and not improving while 26% of K-Albanians (as opposed to 8% in June 2007) believe the same.

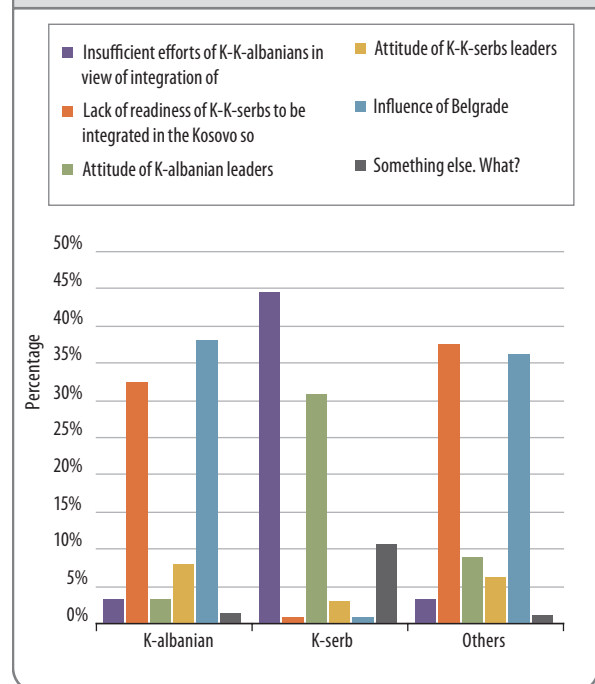
The reasons given for the tense and relatively non-improving interethnic relations, especially between the K-Albanians and K-Serbs, remain different depending on ethnicity (Figure 3.3).

**Figure 3.2: Trend of respondents considering that interethnic relations continue to be tense and not improving**



K-Albanians believe that the main factors for tense K-Serb – K-Albanian relations are 1) the influence of Belgrade (38%), and 2) lack of readiness of K-Serbs to be integrated in the Kosovo society (32%). Other minorities have a similar opinion with 36% citing the influence of Belgrade and 38% the lack of readiness of K-Serbs to be integrated. On the other hand, K-Serbs believe that the two major factors for tense relations with K-Albanians are 1) the insufficient efforts of K-Albanians in view of integration of K-Serbs in the Kosovo society (45%) and 2) the attitude of K-Albanian leaders (31%).

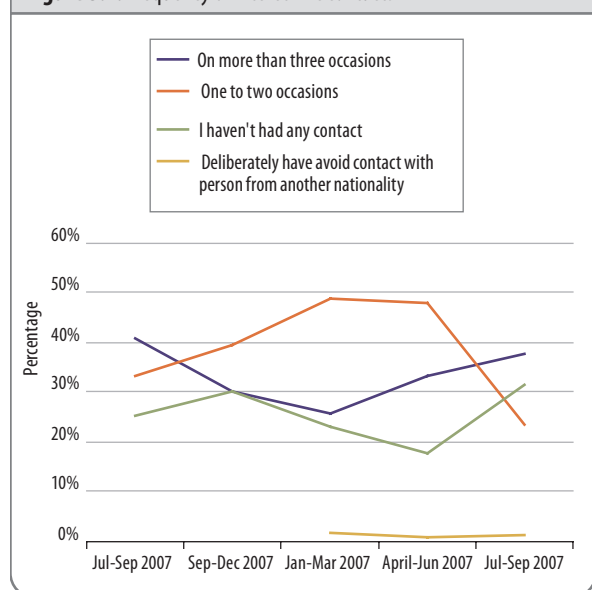
**Figure 3.3: Factors for tense K-Serb – K-Albanian relations**



## II. Interethnic Contacts and Coexistence

Compared to the June 2007 poll, the October 2007 poll shows an increase in those reporting no interethnic contact and a sharp decrease in interethnic contact on one and two occasions with a slight increase in interethnic contact on more than three occasions (Figure 3.4).

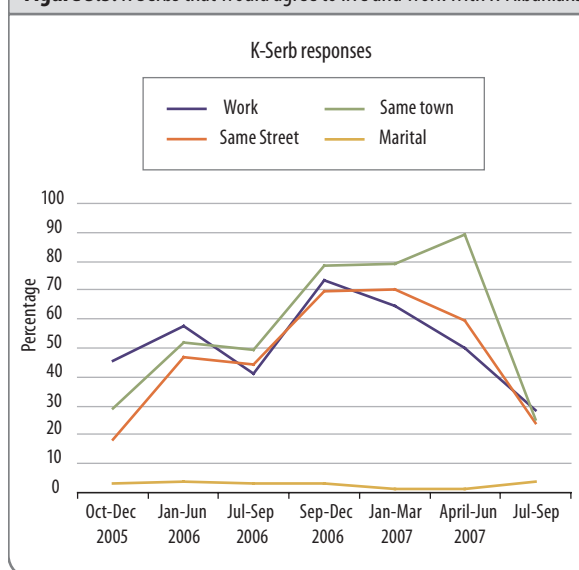
**Figure 3.4:** Frequency of interethnic contacts



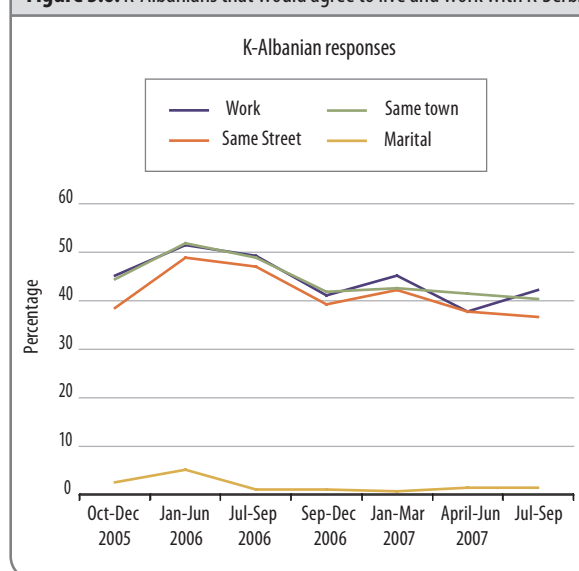
Another important, but discouraging indicator, is the K-Serbs response to working or living with K-Albanians. As can be seen from Figure 3.5, there has been a significant decrease, since the April-June 2007 reporting period, in the readiness of K-Serbs to work, reside on the same street or same town with, and marry K-Albanians. Only about 30% of K-Serbs would want to live in the same town with K-Albanians, and only some 28% and 25% respectively would want to work and reside on the same street with K-Albanians.

On the other hand, the attitudes of K-Albanians towards either living or working with K-Serbs have not changed much compared to the previous poll. There has been a very slight increase (four percentage points) in the K-Albanians readiness to work with K-Serbs, and a slight decrease in their readiness to reside on the same street or town, where now only 37% of K-Albanians would want to reside on the same street with K-Serbs, and only 40% would want to live in the same town with K-Serbs (Figure 3.6).

**Figure 3.5:** K-Serbs that would agree to live and work with K-Albanians



**Figure 3.6:** K-Albanians that would agree to live and work with K-Serbs



As far as interethnic marriages are concerned, only 4% of K-Serbs and only 2% of K-Albanians would agree to ethnically mixed marriages.

The poll results show however, that within the last three months leading to the survey date, interethnic contacts are relatively satisfactory. The vast majority of K-Serbs (65%) and Other minorities (71%), and almost a quarter of K-Albanians (24%), reported to have had contacts with other ethnicities (Table 3.1). On the other hand,

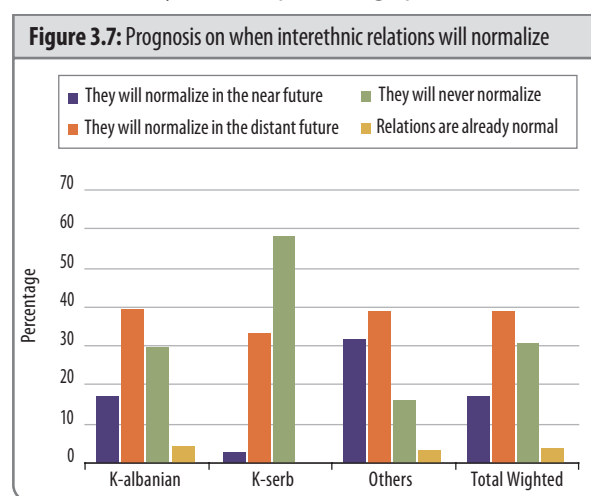
the vast majority of K-Albanians (76%), some 35% of K-Serbs, and only 29% of Other minorities, reported to have had no contact with other ethnicities. Overall, the ratio of Kosovans having had interethnic contacts over the last three months leading to the survey date is 4:6.

**Table 3.1:** Contacts with other ethnicities in the last three months

	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	Total
Yes I have had contact	24.42	65.07	71.10	40.38
No contact	75.58	34.93	28.90	59.62
Total	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

As for the prospects of having interethnic relations normalize, K-Serbs are the most pessimistic among all ethnicities in Kosovo. Some 59% of K-Serbs, which is significantly higher than the June 2007 reporting period indicator of 10%, believe that interethnic relations between K-Serbs and K-Albanians will never normalize. Of the same opinion are some 30% of K-Albanians and some 17% of Other minorities. The most optimistic – those who believe that relations will normalize in the near and distant future – are K-Albanians (57%), followed by Other minorities (51%), and K-Serbs with only 35% (Figure 3.7).

It is important to note that K-Serbs seem to have become more pessimistic since the last reporting period. According to the previous poll in June 2007 only 11% of K-Serbs believed that interethnic relations would never normalize, whereas the current poll shows a drastic increase in this measure by some 48 percentage points.



Currently, only 4 % of K-Albanians and 3% of Other minorities believe that interethnic relations are already normal.

### III. Conclusions of the Expert Group on Interethnic Issues

According to the Expert Group convened to discuss the results of this EWS Opinion Poll, the following are worrying trends that require special attention:

- The high number of K-Serbs believing that relations between K-Albanians and K-Serbs are tense and will continue to be so in the future, especially in Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica region.
- The 50% decrease since June 2007 in the percentage of K-Serb respondents who would agree to work in the same workplace with K-Albanians.
- The high percentage of K-Albanian respondents thinking that a prolongation of the resolution of the status of Kosovo will have a negative effect on interethnic relations.
- Different opinions of K-Serbs and K-Albanians on who should work more to improve interethnic relations. While K-Serbs think that K-Albanian leaders and K-Albanians should work more in this regard, K-Albanians think that K-Serbs should try to integrate. A positive result in this respect is the fact that K-Serbs from regions other than Mitrovicë/Mitrovica think that all actors should work together to improve interethnic relations.

The following factors have been identified by Expert Group discussions as elements contributing to the current interethnic situation:

- Further polarisation and radicalisation of both K-Albanians and K-Serbs with regard to status as a result of the further postponement of the status decision and different opinions among international actors over the future status of Kosovo especially among members of the UNSC.
- The influence of Belgrade for hindering the integration K-Serbs into Kosovo institutions and society, especially the requests and pronouncements for a boycott of the future elections.
- Disunity among K-Serb political parties on whether to participate in the forthcoming central and local elections.

*Possible alarming scenarios identified by Expert Groups:*

- Disunity and disagreements among the international community over the future status of Kosovo especially among members of the UNSC might lead to further polarisation of positions between K-Albanians and K-Serbs. Decisions on status, if not endorsed by the entire international community, might lead to partial endorsement whilst also legitimising the actions of certain extreme groups.
- Disunity among EU members on the future status of Kosovo and the possibility that future EU action on Kosovo might again, as in the 1990's, result in lack of international involvement and to escalation of the situation in the region.
- The fact that indicators for the K-Serb population have shown negative trends in terms of their satisfaction with institutions and overall situation in Kosovo as well as their perceptions of interethnic relations, in the absence of any negative security event, indicates that K-Serbs

may perhaps, without direct contact with K-Albanians, be more influenced by media reporting from Belgrade than the overall situation in Kosovo.

*In order to address the current interethnic situation the following actions are recommended by the Expert Group:*

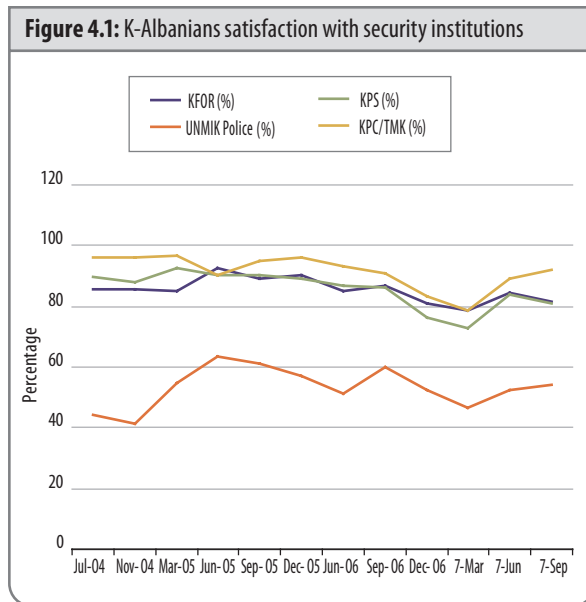
- The international community and especially EU member states should try to reach consensus and to present their views in a united manner.
- During this period of uncertainty regarding Kosovo's final status, strong attempts should be made by the local government towards the reconciliation of ethnicities in Kosovo.
- The international community could work more on interethnic communication as well as on alternative reporting and information to all ethnicities in Kosovo in order to provide alternatives for unbiased information for the entire population.

## Chapter 4

### PUBLIC AND PERSONAL SECURITY

#### I. Satisfaction with Security Institutions

Satisfaction with security institutions in Kosovo has been consistently high as far as K-Albanians are concerned. The current poll results show a slight increase in the K-Albanians responses to satisfaction with UNMIK Police (by two percentage points), and the KPC (by three percentage points). After an increase from March to June 2007, there has been a slight decrease of satisfaction among K-Albanians with the KPS and KFOR, by three percentage points each (Figure 4.1). Since September 2005 poll, the KPC continues to be the most trusted security institution that the vast majority of K-Albanians are satisfied with.

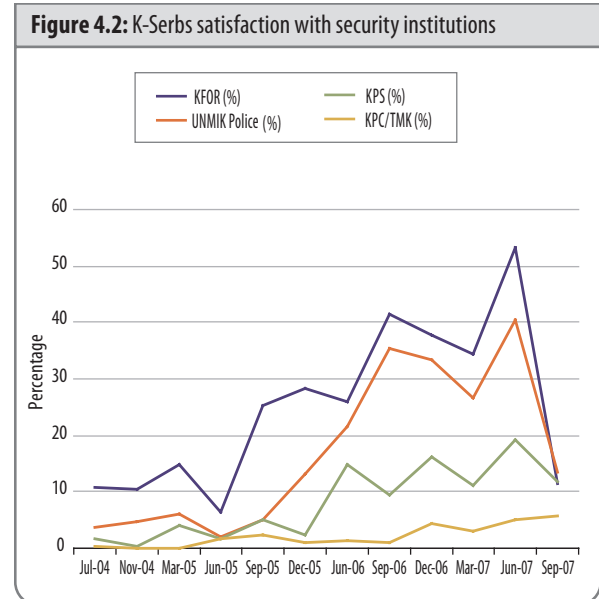


Contrary to the last reporting period (March to June 2007) where a clear and significant increasing trend was noticed in the satisfaction with security institutions among K-Serbs, this poll shows a complete reversal in that trend (Figure 4.2).

Since June 2007 there has been a steep and drastically significant drop in the satisfaction of K-Serbs with security institutions. In June 2007, satisfaction with KFOR was at an all-time high (53%) but in October 2007, it dropped to just 11%. This is a never before seen drop of some 42 percentage points which indicates a sharp reduction in the level of confidence toward KFOR among K-Serbs. The situation is similar for other security institutions, such as UNMIK Police and the KPS. UNMIK Police suffered a 27-percentage

point drop among K-Serbs respondents since June 2007, while the KPS experienced a smaller decrease of seven percentage points.

With a one percentage point increase since June 2007, the KPC is the only security institution that actually experienced an increase in satisfaction among K-Serbs standing now at 6%.



Similar to the previous poll, the current poll also shows that the majority of K-Albanians and Other minorities (except for K-Serbs) consider that community-police relations are good (Table 4.1). About one-third of K-Serbs, however, consider community-police relations to be neither good nor bad, while the majority of them consider these relations to be bad. Compared to the previous poll, there has been a decrease in respondents from all ethnicities that consider community-police relations good or very good.

**Table 4.1: Assessment of community-police relations**

In your opinion, community-police cooperation is?	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others
Very good	10.9%	0.8%	3.9%
Good	40.4%	8.2%	38.3%
Neither good nor bad	27.4%	32.8%	22.6%
Bad	8.3%	29.1%	8.7%
Very bad	5.1%	21.3%	3.0%
DK	8.00%	7.80%	23.50%
100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

When asked why they considered community-police relations to be negative, the majority of K-Albanians (28%) said they felt the police are weak and incompe-

tent while 24% said they do not trust the police. The second set of reasons given by K-Albanians include a lack of desire among people to cooperate with the police (15%), and the feeling that the police are corrupt and easy to bribe (11%).

For K-Serbs, the four major reasons as to why the community-police relations are bad are somewhat different from those identified by K-Albanians and include: 1) lack of trust in the police (30%), 2) feeling that the police are corrupt and easy to bribe (23%), 3) police are weak and incompetent (22%), and 4) police do not try to improve relations with community (11%).

For Other minorities the four major reasons given include: 1) lack of trust in the police (29%), 2) lack of desire to cooperate with the police (24%), 3) feeling that the police are weak and incompetent (21%), and 4) the police do not try to improve relations with community (15%).

**Table 4.2:** Reasons for bad community-police relations

If very bad, bad or neither good nor bad, what is the reason for that?	Ethnicity grouped three			Total
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	
People don't trust the police	24.3%	29.9%	28.8%	26.8%
People don't want to cooperate with the police	15.4%	7.6%	23.8%	13.9%
People feel the Police is weak and incompetent	28.2%	21.8%	21.3%	25.2%
The Police doesn't try to improve relations with the community	7.7%	11.4%	15.0%	9.9%
People feel the Police are corrupt and easy to bribe	11.0%	22.7%		13.5%
Something else. What?	2.4%	0.9%	2.5%	1.9%
DK/NA	11.00%	5.70%	8.80%	8.90%
100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Overall, the main reason given for bad community-police relations is the lack of trust people have for the police (27%), followed by the feeling that police are weak and incompetent (25%). Initiatives to improve community-police relations could therefore focus on issues pertaining to competence and professionalism among the police force.

## II. Personal and Family Security

Respondents were asked to list what they see as the biggest threats to their families' security and safety (Figure 4.3). For K-Albanians, the four major security threats include: 1) organized crime (23%), 2) robberies (21%), 3) murders (12%), and 4) thefts (11%). K-Serbs

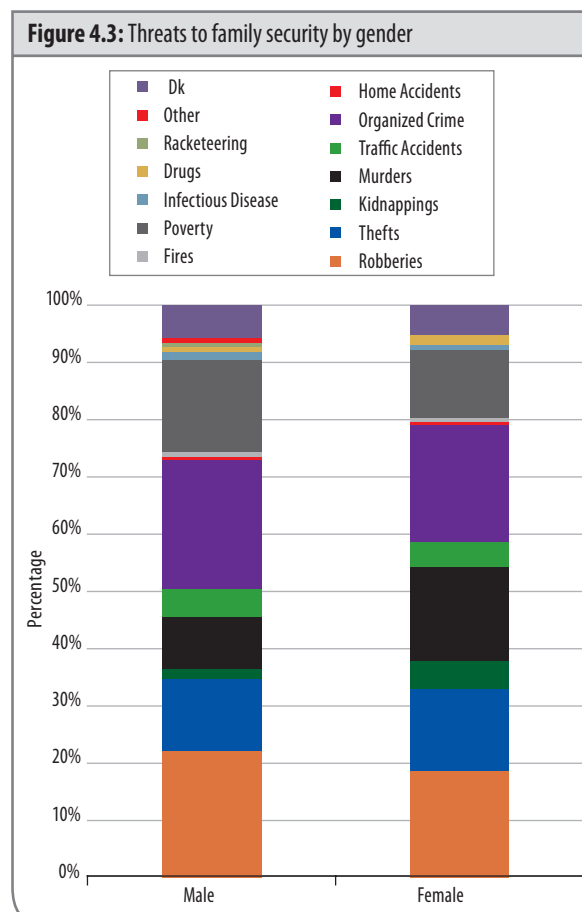
identify the same threats in a different order including 1) thefts (32%), 2) robberies (25%), 3) organized crime (15%), and 4) murders (8%) while for Other minorities the main threats include: 1) thefts (23%), 2) robberies (12%), 3) murders (10%), and 4) organized crime (9%). While poverty is also considered a top threat to family security for both K-Albanians (almost 15%) and Other Kosovo minorities (22%), it is not considered so much of a threat by K-Serbs (4.5%).

**Table 4.3:** Threats to family's security

From the following security threats which is the most threatening to your family? * Ethnicity grouped three Crosstabulation % within Ethnicity grouped three	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others
Robberies	21.29	24.59	12.17
Organized Crime	23.24	7.6%	23.8%
Thefts	11.44	31.97	23.48
Poverty	14.96	4.51	22.61
Murders	11.68	8.20	10.00

For both males and females, the two most important threats to family security are robberies and organized crime. The third most important threat to family security for males however, differs from that of females – it is poverty for males and murders for females (Figure 4.3)

**Figure 4.3:** Threats to family security by gender



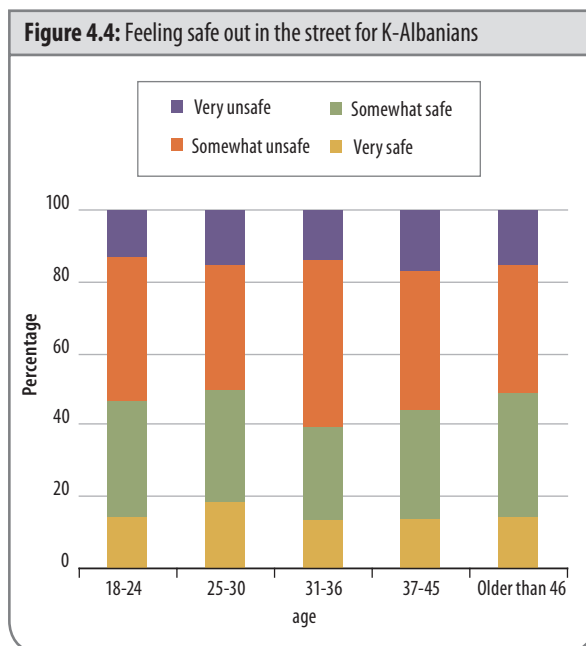
A significant decline was seen in the perception of safety while outside on the street among both K-Albanians and K-Serbs. Some 47% of K-Albanians feel safe (very safe and somewhat safe), which is a drop from 77% who felt safe according to the previous poll of June 2007. Just 8% of K-Serbs feel safe now, as opposed to 64% who felt safe according to the previous poll. A drop in feelings of safety was also recorded among Other minorities from 79% in June 2007 to 61% in the October 2007 poll (Table 4.4).

The current poll, therefore, shows a drastic drop in feeling safe when out in the street for all ethnicities. This may be related to the decreased satisfaction with Kosovo's security institutions that was shown by all Kosovans generally.

**Table 4.4:** Safety vs. crime and violence when outside

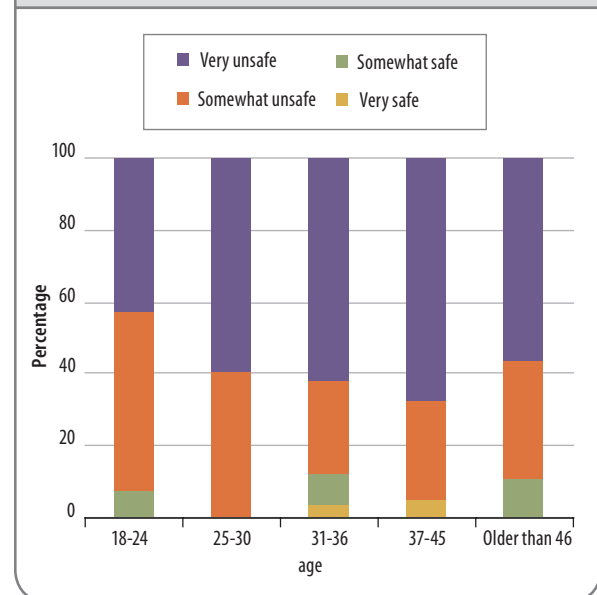
<i>In general, how safe do you feel from violence and crime when you are on the street?</i>	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	Total
Very safe	14.7%	1.2%	29.6%	14.8%
Somewhat safe	31.8%	6.6%	29.6%	26.6%
Somewhat unsafe	38.3%	33.6%	27.8%	35.6%
Very unsafe	14.6%	57.0%	11.7%	22.1%
DK/NA	0.6%	1.6%	1.3%	0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

As can be seen in Figure 4.4, among K-Albanians, the age group of 31-36 years is the group with the lowest percentage (30%) of feeling safe out in the street (somewhat safe and very safe), whereas the group that feels most safe is the age group of 25-30 years.



The opposite is true for K-Serbs, however. The group that mostly feels safe (very safe and somewhat safe) out in the street is the age group of 31-36 years, out of whom some 11% feel safe. Again, contrary to K-Albanians, the group that feels least safe (very unsafe and somewhat unsafe) is the age group of 25-30 years, out of whom a worrying shocking 99% feel unsafe.

**Figure 4.5:** Feeling safe out in the street for K-Serbs

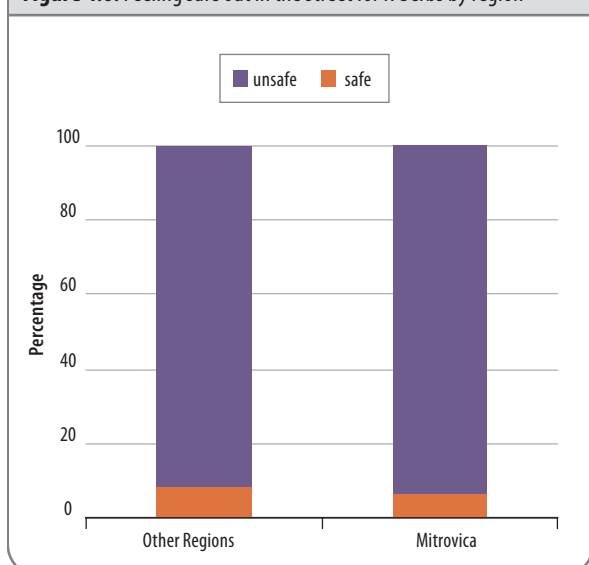


Feelings of security for the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region and the rest of Kosovo's regions is displayed in Figure 4.6. Because of its particularly complex situation – being still an ethnically divided town – there is reason to assume that the security situation in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica is perceived differently by K-Serbs and K-Albanians and that K-Serbs in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica might feel safer there than elsewhere in Kosovo.

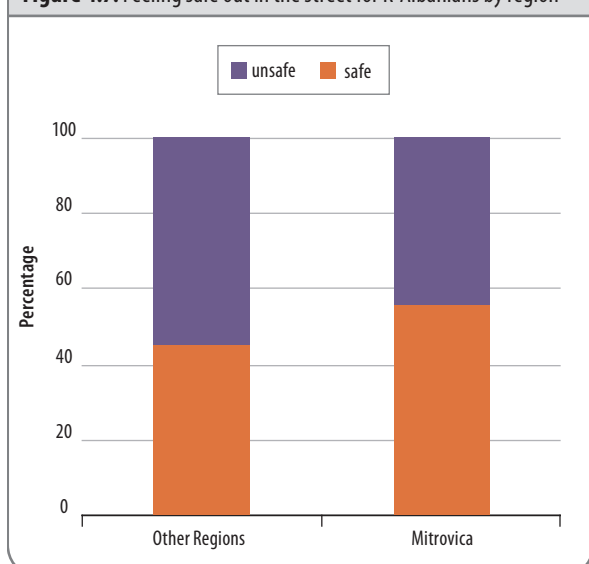
The poll results, however, show no essential difference between the K-Serbs feelings of safety in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica as opposed to the other Kosovo regions. Only 7% of K-Serbs feel safe in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, while only 8% of them feel safe in other regions.

Contrary to popular belief and perhaps surprisingly, K-Albanians report feeling slightly safer in the Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region than in other regions. About 56% of K-Albanians feel safe in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica while some 45% do so in other regions (Figure 4.7).

**Figure 4.6:** Feeling safe out in the street for K-Serbs by region



**Figure 4.7:** Feeling safe out in the street for K-Albanians by region



### III. Conclusions of the Expert Group on Public and Personal Security Issues

According to the Expert Group convened to discuss the results of this EWS Opinion Poll, the following are worrying trends that require special attention:

- The very small proportion of respondents (only 18%) that are satisfied with the work of the Judiciary.
- The high number of respondents who do not agree with the statement that the “judicial system in Kosovo is unbiased and treats all persons equally”, especially in Prishtinë/Priština, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, and Gjiilan/Gnjilane regions.

- An overall small decrease in satisfaction with the work of KFOR and KPS among the Kosovo population and a significant decrease in satisfaction with these organizations among K-Serbs.
- The large number of respondents that reported high levels of anxiety.
- An increase in perceptions of corruption and an increase in the percentage of respondents who reported conditioning of public services with bribes, gifts and other favours.

The following issues have been identified as potential problems contributing to public and personal security issues:

- The lack of regular reporting of KPS and KFOR in the media providing monthly reports on security issues and statistics.
- The dire economic situation in households and the lack of improvement in this regard which is a precondition for crime and violence.
- The inefficiency of the courts and the backlog of cases that continues to strain the courts’ relationship with the KPS and with Kosovans.
- The lack of unified software systems for the exchange of information and statistics between KPS stations as well as between the KPS and other security sector institutions.
- Appearance of masked armed groups in the media conducting control of vehicles and people.

Possible scenarios identified by the Expert Group:

- The very low level of confidence in courts and a further drop to 18% is alarming. This may result in people no longer using the courts to solve their problems and may lead to people taking justice into their own hands thus leading to an increase violence and crime.
- The lack of or insufficient reporting by KPS and KFOR might lead to disinformation and insecurity especially with regard to the appearance of armed groups. KPS and KFOR should aim to work with the local media especially in areas with minorities to rectify this situation.
- The high number of people experiencing anxiety may lead to an increase in domestic violence.

*The Expert Group recommends the following actions as necessary to address the public and personal security issues:*

- Government should work on programmes and projects in order to increase the efficiency of courts and increase the trust in these institutions.
- Better coordination between all the security sector institutions and the creation of better mechanisms for sharing of information and statistics with the public might reduce risks to Kosovo's security and provide more assurance to people on security conditions in Kosovo.
- In order to increase feelings of security and ensure better cooperation between policing institutions and people, KFOR, UNMIK Police and the KPS should be more active in reaching out to local populations directly and through the local media.
- In specific sectoral terms, local security institutions, in cooperation with UNMIK, should develop specific security policies and emergency plans for extreme weather conditions, water shortages, health epidemics and other emergency situations.



## Chapter 5

### EMIGRATION TRENDS

The diaspora has always been an important part of Kosovo's society, not only in terms of financial support, but also in terms of social life. Financially speaking, remittances and pensions from abroad form a significant source of income for Kosovans in general, and K-Albanians in particular. Almost €400 million have come into Kosovo in the form of remittances in 2007<sup>5</sup>.

Nevertheless, the general public belief is that Kosovans want to emigrate mainly for economic reasons. The following is a very brief descriptive analysis of Kosovo's emigration trends based on the October 2007 EWS opinion poll results, which reveals some insightful information.

According to the poll, more than one-third of K-Albanians and Other minorities and some 18% of K-Serbs reported to have a family member abroad, while the majority of all ethnicities in Kosovo reported to have no family member abroad. It must be noted, however, that by family member the questionnaire identified immediate family members such as father, mother, wife, brother, sister, son, or daughter.

**Table 5.1:** Do you have any family members living abroad?

	Ethnicity grouped three		
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others
Yes	32.0%	17.5%	30.0%
No	67.3%	75.6%	70.0%
DK/NA	0.7%	6.8%	
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Out of those with family members abroad, the vast majority of K-Albanians (82%) stated that they receive financial support from their family members abroad occasionally and on a regular basis, while only 16% stated that they do not receive any financial support. The trend is quite opposite for K-Serbs, only 14% of whom stated that they receive financial support from their family members abroad occasionally or on a regular basis. The vast majority of K-Serbs, however, over 85% stated that they do not receive any financial support from family members abroad.

**Table 5.2:** My family member(s) that live abroad support me financially

	Ethnicity grouped three		
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others
on a regular basis	30.4%	1.3%	14.9%
occasionally	51.5%	12.3%	41.8%
never	16.2%	85.1%	40.3%
DK/NA	1.9%	1.3%	3.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Needless to say, the popular belief is that a vast majority of Kosovans want to emigrate and leave Kosovo for good. However, the October 2007 poll results show quite the opposite.

**Table 5.3:** According to some data, migration from Kosovo is present again. Do you personally plan to emigrate from Kosovo?

	Ethnicity			Total Weighted
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	
Yes	19.8%	9.0%	27.0%	19.61%
No	75.8%	82.0%	70.0%	75.81%
DK/NA	4.4%	9.0%	3.0%	4.58%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.00%

Only 19.8 % of K-Albanians that were interviewed do plan to emigrate from Kosovo, while only 9.0% of K-Serbs, and 27.0 % of Other minorities plan to leave. From the current data, we see that the vast majority of Kosovans, regardless of their ethnicity, do not plan to emigrate from Kosovo, specifically 75.8% of K-Albanians, 82% of K-Serbs, and 70% of Others do not plan to emigrate from Kosovo.

**Table 5.4:** Have you made specific plans to emigrate from Kosovo?

	Ethnicity grouped three			Total Weighted
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	
Yes	41.1%	42.9%	24.2%	40.19%
No	56.4%	46.4%	71.0%	56.71%
DK/NA	2.5%	10.7%	4.8%	3.09%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.00%

It is also important to note that out of those planning to emigrate from Kosovo, based on ethnicity, 41.1% of K-Albanians, 42.9% of K-Serbs, and 24.2% of Oth-

<sup>5</sup> CBAK, October 2007 Statistics Bulletin

ers, have made specific plans to emigrate. Generally speaking, over 40% of Kosovans who plan to emigrate, have made specific plans about doing so which perhaps indicates that they are very serious about leaving Kosovo.

**Table 5.5:** What would be the reason of your emigration?

	Ethnicity			
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	
Unfavourable economic situation in family	55.2%	20.0%	62.9%	53.56%
Joining the family	4.9%	8.0%	9.7%	5.38%
Better economic opportunities abroad	28.8%	12.0%	17.7%	27.16%
Dissatisfaction with the current political situation in Kosovo	3.1%	52.0%	4.8%	6.11%
Something else.	1.8%			1.62%
DK/NA	6.1%	8.0%	4.8%	6.17%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

As to why Kosovans want to emigrate, this survey confirms the popular assumption for K-Albanians – who mainly (about 84%) want to emigrate due to the unfavourable economic situation in the family and better economic opportunities abroad. In general, this data is in line with the KHDR 2006 data on reasons for emigration, where over 41% of Kosovans who said they would emigrate, would do so because of economic hardship.<sup>6</sup> About 81% of Other minorities in Kosovo would want to emigrate for the same reasons as the K-Albanians, whereas slightly over half of the K-Serbs want to emigrate from Kosovo due to dissatisfaction with the current political situation.

**Table 5.6:** According to some data, migration from Kosovo is present again. Do you personally plan to emigrate from Kosovo?

	Age Group					Total
	18-24	25-30	31-36	37-45	Older than 46	
Yes	28.2%	19.9%	23.5%	17.4%	11.9%	19.1%
No	65.8%	74.9%	70.5%	77.3%	84.4%	75.9%
DK/NA	6.0%	5.2%	6.0%	5.4%	3.6%	5.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Looking at the different age-groups of those interviewed, it can be seen that as the age of Kosovans increases, their desirability to emigrate decreases. There is one exception in this trend for the age group 25-30 years, whose desirability to emigrate is lower than

those in the age group 31-36. This might be because this is the average age during which Kosovans usually get married and become family focused (which would normally lower their desire to leave).

As in the case of planning to emigrate by ethnicity, contrary to popular belief only about 25% of Kosovans between the age of 18 and 30 have plans to emigrate, while the vast majority does not.

**Table 5.7:** Have you made specific plans to emigrate from Kosovo?

	Age Group					Total
	18-24	25-30	31-36	37-45	Older than 46	
Yes	44.2%	30.2%	42.5%	36.4%	28.6%	37.2%
No	50.6%	67.4%	57.5%	63.6%	61.2%	58.9%
DK/NA	5.2%	2.3%			10.2%	4.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Out of those wanting to emigrate, it can be seen that the younger the population, the higher the proportion of those having made specific plans to leave Kosovo. The age group of 25-30 again have a lower rate than the 31-36 age group most likely for the reasons noted above. Nevertheless, the data supports the trend that the older the person, the smaller the proportion of those that have made specific plans to leave Kosovo.

**Table 5.8:** What would be the reason of your emigration?

	Age Group					Total
	18-24	25-30	31-36	37-45	Older than 46	
Unfavourable economic situation in family	51.9%	64.3%	57.5%	51.2%	45.8%	53.6%
Joining the family	2.6%	2.4%	7.5%	9.3%	12.5%	6.4%
Better economic opportunities abroad	31.2%	23.8%	15.0%	25.6%	20.8%	24.4%
Dissatisfaction with the current political situation in Kosovo	3.9%	4.8%	10.0%	14.0%	12.5%	8.4%
Something else. What?	2.6%				2.1%	1.2%
DK/NA	7.8%	4.8%	10.0%		6.3%	6.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

<sup>6</sup> Kosovo Human Development Report 2006, *Youth – A new generation for a new Kosovo*, UNDP Kosovo, March 2007

Once again, an unfavourable economic situation in the family and better economic opportunities abroad, represent the two major reasons as to why Kosovans want to emigrate. More than 70% (on average) of those interviewed in all age groups want to leave Kosovo because of these two reasons. The older the population grows, the less significant these reasons for emigration become, except for the age group of

25-30, which slightly breaks the trend for reasons noted above. Interestingly, as age increases, dissatisfaction with the current political situation becomes yet another important reason to leave Kosovo (the proportion of people wanting to leave Kosovo because of this reason increases as their age group increases, up to the last age group of 46+).

## Main Media Events, July-October 2007

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2-Jul World Bank "disappointed" with Kosovo (Koha Ditore). In an interview with Koha Ditore, the director of World Bank for south-eastern Europe, Orsalia Kalantzopoulos, expressed disappointment over the management of Kosovo's energy sector. According to her, policy makers have a lot more to do even after the status is resolved.

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"Kosovo, issue for Rice and Lavrov (Dailies)

In the coverage of the George W. Bush-Vladimir Putin meeting, Koha Ditore writes that the two presidents spoke about Kosovo and they decided the issue should be dealt with by the U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov."

"Ban Ki-moon hopes Bush and Putin will find solution for Kosovo (Dailies)

3-Jul Papers quote the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon saying on Monday that he hopes that the meeting between the U.S. President, George W. Bush and the President of Russia, Vladimir Putin will lead to a new development regarding independence for Kosovo, adding that further delays will not be welcomed."

"Tadic convinced in a compromise solution for Kosovo (RTS/Beta)

Opening the Second Summer University of Democracy in Strasbourg, where he is on a working visit to the CoE, Serbian President Boris Tadic stated that he believes that in the Belgrade-Prishtina negotiations a compromise and mutually acceptable solution for Kosovo would be found."

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"SRSG Rucker meets opposition leaders (Dailies)

Papers report on the meetings the SRSG Joachim Rucker had yesterday with opposition leaders, PDK's Hashim Thaçi and ORA's Veton Surroi."

6-Jul "Ambassador Simic: Kosovo negotiations without a set deadline (RTS)

New negotiations of Belgrade and Prishtina should not have a deadline and predetermined outcome, and instead of one mediator, there should be representatives from the EU, US and Russia, said Serbian Ambassador to France and member of the former Serbian negotiating team Predrag Simic."

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"Veterans threaten military actions (dailies)

Papers report that Kosovo war veterans publicly threatened members of the Unity Team, asking them not to accept any status delay or new negotiations."

"Fried: Serbia's future between EU and Kosovo (Politika/Beta)

8-Jul The only way for all Serbs to live in one political entity was Yugoslavia, and they can achieve this by joining the EU, assessed US official Daniel Fried. He called on Serbia not to insist anymore on keeping Kosovo by further rejecting its independence, but instead, to choose a future within the EU."

"Samardzic: UN Charter applies for all (Politika/Tanjug)

Serbian Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardzic stated that the choice between the EU and Kosovo is a false choice for Serbia. We categorically reject the American invitation for Serbia to accept that a new Albanian state is formed on its territory, Samardzic told Tanjug."

"Loncar: Serbia won the first battle in defending Kosovo (Politika/Tanjug)

Serbian Minister for Education Zoran Loncar told Tanjug that Serbia won the first great battle in defending Kosovo, as it definitely succeeded in sending Ahtisaari's plan to archives as an unusable document."

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	<p>"Resolution without status (dailies) Koha Ditore reports on the front page that the latest draft resolution on Kosovo, sponsored by the U.S. and the Europeans, does not envisage independence as the final outcome. The draft resolution leaves open the possibility of an agreement between Pristina and Belgrade, and "still" does not remove Serbia's sovereignty over Kosovo."</p>
	<p>"Sejdiu and Çeku call for a final date for status (dailies) All dailies cover the meeting that Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister Agim Çeku had yesterday in Brussels with EU High Representative Javier Solana."</p>
12-Jul	<p>"Putin and Sarkozy, a telephone conversation on Kosovo (Dailies) Citing Interfax, dailies report that the Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart had a telephone conversation on Kosovo. "Following the constructive dialogue that started after the G8 Summit in Heiligendamm, the two leaders have exchanged their positions on the Kosovo issue and other international problems, as well as trade prospects and economic cooperation, including the oil and energy sectors," dailies cite Kremlin."</p>
	<p>"Good Governance Cabinet against new negotiations (dailies) Dailies report that in its regular meeting, the Good Governance Cabinet of the PDK opposed the idea of new negotiations with Belgrade, claiming that they would be ineffective and unnecessary "because it is known that it is impossible to reach an agreement in any negotiations between Kosovo and Serbia""</p>
	<p>"Albin Kurti back under home arrest (dailies) All dailies report on the release of the leader of the Vetëvendosja movement, Albin Kurti, from prison. This is the third time that Kurti has been released from prison with the decision of the judge."</p>
15-Jul	<p>"Server: Serbia has a choice - Kosovo or democracy (Blic) Balkans expert of the American Institute for Peace Daniel Server has stated that the worst possible scenario for Kosovo Albanians is an outburst of violence that would ensure that Kosovo is recognized."</p>
	<p>"Date for voting on a resolution to be decided Friday (dailies) Washington, Paris, London and Rome will soon speak with a unified voice to bypass Russia in the UNSC and to carry on with the process outside this Council. This group of Western countries has informed Russia that they will not draft any new text for a resolution for Kosovo because "five were enough." It is expected that on Friday the decision on when to vote on a draft resolution will be made."</p>
18-Jul	<p>"Against a change of borders (dailies) Dailies report on the meeting of President Fatmir Sejdiu with Albanian representatives from the Presevo Valley. They discussed the issue of Kosovo and refused the possibility of the division of Kosovo."</p>
	<p>"Status to be discussed after the meeting with Condoleezza Rice (dailies) Koha Ditore reports that the Kosovo status issue has come to be more important for the Assembly of Serbia than for the Assembly of Kosovo. The Assembly of Serbia has scheduled 23 July to hold an extraordinary session on Kosovo, with a very clear vision that there will be a resolution at the end which will oppose all UN resolutions that open the way to independence."</p>
	<p>"Negotiations even without a UN resolution (dailies) Papers report that the European High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana has indirectly admitted for the first time that the Kosovo process can continue outside the UN Security Council."</p>

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	<p>"Security Council fails, status in the hands of Contact Group (dailies) Under the front-page headline Independence in the hands of the Contact Group, Koha Ditore reports that the issue of Kosovo's status has moved from the United Nations Security Council to the Contact Group (CG) where Russia does not have veto power. Ambassadors of the Contact Group countries issued a statement, saying that the issue of Kosovo would be solved by the Contact Group and the European Union.</p>
21-Jul	<p>"Merkel: Minor chance for quick solution on issue of Kosovo (dailies) Dailies report that during her visit to Athens, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that the chance for a quick solution to the issue of Kosovo's status is minor. "Compromise cannot be found if the parties involved insist on their positions," Merkel was quoted as saying.</p> <p>"PDSRSG Steven Schook rules out Kosovo's partition (dailies) Dailies report that during his visit to Gjilan, PDSRSG Steven Schook ruled out the option of Kosovo's partition and emphasized the three principles of the Contact Group. Schook also said that the clear position of the Kosovo Unity Team would be known after the meeting with US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, in Washington on July 23.</p>
24-Jul	<p>"EU foreign ministers "afraid" of unilateral independence of Kosovo (dailies) Zëri reports that the EU did not come out with a firm stand on Kosovo's status after the EU meeting of foreign ministers, but that the statement of German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in which he suggested that the EU assign an envoy to the Contact Group instead of separate representation of Germany, France and Italy, seems to be a new EU approach to Kosovo.</p>
26-Jul	<p>"Rücker calls for timeframe for Kosovo status process (dailies) Koha Ditore quotes UNMIK head Joachim Rücker as saying at a press conference that there is conviction at the EU that UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari's package cannot be reopened and there is nothing to negotiate on the issue of Kosovo's status.</p> <p>"Troika approved – there is no agenda for the negotiators (dailies) Senior diplomats from the Contact Group member states on Wednesday held a three-hour meeting on Kosovo at the German Embassy in Vienna. After the failure of the UNSC to approve a resolution on Kosovo, negotiations will now be led by a new team known as the "troika for Kosovo's status".</p>
30-Jul	<p>"Telephone conference of the Contact Group (Zëri) Members of the Contact Group are expected to discuss the issue of Kosovo today via a telephone conference, the newspaper reports.</p>
31-Jul	<p>"Seven conditions before the start of negotiations (Dailies) Koha Ditore reports on the front page that Kosovo negotiators appeared before the Assembly of Kosovo and informed members that they will enter a 120-days period of further negotiations to clarify the status. Unity Team pledged to the Assembly members that independence of Kosovo is not up for negotiation, Zëri reports.</p>

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2-Aug	<p>"UN SG Ban Ki-moon announces start of talks (dailies)</p> <p>Papers report that the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has issued a statement welcoming the initiative of the Contact Group for talks between Kosovo and Serbia."</p>
4-Aug	<p>"Xhemajli: Kosovo to unite with Albania (Dailies)</p> <p>In a press conference, the leader of Kosovo National Movement (LPK) Emrush Xhemajli said the only solution for Kosovo is its unification with Albania and that all future stages of negotiations are done so as to damage Kosovo's interest."</p>
5-Aug	<p>Williams: Albanians to ask for guarantees from US for recognition of independence after 120 days (dailies)</p>
6-Aug	<p>"Svilanovic: Status after 2008 (dailies)</p> <p>Several dailies quote Goran Svilanovic, official of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe, as saying that the final decision on Kosovo's status should not be expected before the election of the new administration in Washington in 2008."</p> <p>"Tadic with Steinmeier on Kosovo (RTS)</p> <p>Serbian President Boris Tadic had talks in Ascona with German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier on the continuation of talks regarding the future status of Kosovo, as well as on the forthcoming visit of the Contact Groups negotiating trio to Belgrade."</p>
7-Aug	<p>"KPA backs decision by SRSR Rucker (dailies)</p> <p>Daily newspapers report that officials of the Kosovo Property Agency (KPA) said yesterday that 2nd August decision by UNMIK chief Joachim Rucker to suspend the implementation of 350 decisions by the Housing and Property Claims Commission is based on the constitutional responsibilities of the SRSR and such a decision will remain in force until the SRSR decides otherwise."</p>
8-Aug	<p>Wisner: Status of Kosovo has to be decided by December (Zëri)</p> <p>Harchenko: Only compromise for Kosovo (RTS/Beta)</p>
9-Aug	<p>"UNMIK annuls decision to suspend property restitution (dailies)</p> <p>Dailies report that only a week after UNMIK chief Joachim Rucker signed a decision to suspend the 350 decisions by the KPCC of the Kosovo Property Agency, a decision known as the decision for non-restitution of property, the international administration yesterday annulled this decision after an extraordinary meeting."</p> <p>"Çeku: Kosovars will abandon the talks if division will be discuss (Dailies)</p> <p>Kosovo Prime Minister Agim Çeku informed the three international negotiators that only the start of the discussion about the division of Kosovo might result with Pristina abandoning the negotiations."</p> <p>"Serbia asks U.S. for impartiality (Dailies)</p> <p>Serbia expects that the U.S. representatives to be impartial and constructive during the process of new negotiations, said Serbian Minister of Culture, Zoran Loncar who said that this is not the time, because the U.S. is trying to bring into life the Ahtisaari plan which is being completely dismissed, paper cite Belgrade media."</p>
10-Aug	<p>"Contact Group session in London ended (RTS)</p> <p>The first meeting of the Contact Group for Kosovo and the mediating US-EU-Russian trio for new negotiations on the status of the southern Serbian province was held at the British Foreign Office in London."</p> <p>"UNOSEK expert in talks in Belgrade and Pristina (Tanjug)</p> <p>UNOSEK will not participate in the meeting of the Contact Group in London, but will be represented in the delegation which will visit Belgrade and Pristina, Martti Ahtisaari's spokesperson Remi Dourlot told Tanjug."</p>
11-Aug	<p>"Troika meets Serbian Negotiating Team in Belgrade (dailies)</p> <p>The leading story in all daily newspapers this morning is the visit by the Troika to Belgrade and the meeting there with the Serbian Negotiating Team."</p>

12-Aug	<p>"Troika doesn't rule out anything (Dailies)</p> <p>Koha Ditore reports on the front page that the new negotiating process will not produce any new proposal and Pristina and Belgrade will be the parties that will determine the success or the lack of it in this process"</p>
15-Aug	<p>"Kather warns of risk if no agreement is reached (Dailies)</p> <p>COMKFOR Roland Kather said on Tuesday that the patience of people of Kosovo is coming to an end, adding that the situation will worsen if international mediators fail to convince Albanians and Serbia to agree on their future."</p> <p>"U.S. doesn't change its stance (Dailies)</p> <p>Dailies quote U.S. State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack who said that Washington didn't change its stance about the Kosovo's final status, and the support for the independence of Kosovo."</p>
16-Aug	<p>Botsan-Kharchenko: Support for division of Kosovo is fabrication (Dailies)</p> <p>Schook assures there will be no division of Kosovo (Dailies)</p> <p>Elections on the third week of November (Dailies)</p>
17-Aug	<p>"Decision on elections date in the first week of September (dailies)</p> <p>Papers report that PDSRSG Steven Schook has signed an Executive Decision authorizing the Central Elections Commission (CEC) to begin preparations for the elections."</p> <p>Ischinger: Any agreement between the parties will be acceptable to Troika (dailies)</p> <p>"Auditor General finds violations by the Kosovo Presidency (dailies)</p> <p>In a front-page story, Koha Ditore reports that the Auditor General's report on financial records of the Kosovo Presidency for 2006 found irregularities in the tendering procedure for security equipment for which the Presidency signed a €2.7-euro contract with a Swiss company."</p> <p>"UNOSEK only an observer at Vienna negotiations (Tanjug)</p> <p>UN Office of the Envoy for Kosmet Martti Ahtisaari (UNOSEK) will be present as an observer at the forthcoming round of talks of Belgrade and Pristina on 29 and 30 August in Vienna, spokesperson Remi Dourlot told Tanjug."</p>
18-Aug	<p>"Request to return Serbian troops to Kosovo (dailies)</p> <p>In a front-page article, "Any return of the Serbian Forces in Kosovo means war," Koha Ditore reports that the request to bring Serbian troops to Kosovo by the Serbian Government is based on its interpretation of UN Security Council resolution 1244.</p> <p>The Serbian Government also said its request was justified to protect the Serb minority living in Kosovo."</p> <p>"Elections commission announces certification of political parties (dailies)</p> <p>All dailies report on the approval by the Central Election Commission (CEC) to start the certification of political parties which begins the technical preparations for the elections."</p> <p>"Berlin: To introduce readiness for negotiations and compromise (Tanjug)</p> <p>The German Foreign Ministry called before the meetings of the mediating Troika with delegations of Belgrade and Pristina in Vienna both sides to use this opportunity and in talks to be prepared for negotiations and compromise."</p>
19-Aug	<p>"Wisner: United States can recognize independence unilaterally</p> <p>All dailies report on Wisner's warning that the United States would recognize unilateral independence of Kosovo."</p>
20-Aug	<p>"Four guards suspected after the escape from Dubrava (Dailies)</p> <p>Koha Ditore reports that four guards from the Dubrava prison have been detained on Sunday and are being interviewed by the KPS in connection with the escape of seven prisoners last week. The KPS, in a press release, said that the search for the suspects is underway. The paper also publishes the pictures of the seven escaped prisoners."</p> <p>"Return of Serbian Security Forces in Line with UNSCR 1244 (Fonet)</p> <p>Serbian forces could immediately return to Kosovo to secure religious sites and clear mine-fields, Dusan Prorokovic, the Secretary of State of the Serbian Ministry for Kosovo told Fonet."</p>

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21-Aug	<p>"Belgrade with a false invitation (dailies) Koha Ditore quotes sources from the EU in Brussels denying that the Belgrade delegation has received an invitation from the Troika to attend a meeting on August 30 in Vienna."</p> <p>"Plassnik: The blockade of Russia in the Security Council weakens the UN (dailies) The talks for the Kosovo status are the last chance for Belgrade and Pristina to reach an agreement, said Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs Ursula Plassnik."</p> <p>"Çeku: Status more important than elections (dailies) Zëri reports that with all the arguments that were given for elections, Agim Çeku in his weekly address to the people, which was covered on Radio Free Europe, said that status remains the priority for the coming period."</p> <p>"Police arrest another guard of Dubrava prison (Dailies) Zëri reports that the KPS police assisted by UNMIK Police and KFOR have continued the search for the seven inmates who escaped Dubrava prison but that no concrete results have been achieved."</p> <p>"Kosachov: Russia to Veto, if necessary (Vecernje Novosti) "I exclude possibility of Kosovo becoming a state. I even less believe that there is a possibility of Kosovo to be turned into a NATO state, said Chairman of Foreign Policy Committee of the Russian Duma and also Head of the Russian delegation to the Council of Europe Konstantin Kosachov in an interview with Vecernje Novosti."</p>
22-Aug	<p>"Non-negotiable: Independence, territorial integrity and Ahtisaari's package (dailies) Dailies report about the meeting of the Unity Team and the Strategic Political Group."</p> <p>"ICG warns of new war if supervised independence is not granted (Dailies) The latest report of the international think-tank, the International Crisis Group (ICG) had on Kosovo says that April or May of the next year is the optimal time for the West to discuss, for the last time, about the future status of Kosovo while Bucharest may be the place where the NATO heads of states may give their final opinion about independence of Kosovo early in April. "</p> <p>"Loncar:US policy is the biggest obstacle to Kosovo compromise (RTS) Serbian Minister of Education Zoran Loncar has assessed that the US is not giving up the idea to turn Kosovo into the first NATO state, but adds that this project is doomed."</p>
23-Aug	<p>"Pristina invited for the August 30 meeting in Vienna (Dailies) Papers report that an official invitation to take part in the meeting with the international Troika in Vienna was delivered to Kosovo President and head of Unity Team, Fatmir Sejdiu."</p> <p>"Amado: EU faithful to Ahtisaari's plan (Dailies) Dailies report on the one-day visit of the Portuguese Foreign Minister, Louis Amado to Pristina. Portugal is currently president of the EU."</p> <p>"Fight against corruption, a post-status challenge (dailies) The head of ORA political party met the Head of EU Planning Team, Casper Klünge write dailies. Klünge confirmed EU's commitment to work on the basis of Ahtisaari's plan, while he also promised an adequate and direct address to corruption and organized crimes, report the papers."</p> <p>"Four suspects arrested in prison escape (dailies) Police announced the results of the three days actions in regards to the escape and the turbulences in Dubrava prison, report dailies."</p>
24-Aug	<p>"Ischinger gets familiarized with Kosovo stand (dailies) Papers cover the visit of EU Envoy Wolfgang Ischinger to Kosovo, but reported that after his meetings with the Kosovo leadership, Ischinger gave no statement to the media."</p> <p>"Troika to invest maximum efforts to renew direct talks, says Kharchenko (RTS) Ahtisaari's plan objectively exist, but the resumption of talks won't be in any way used to push through or impose this plan, said the Russian mediator in the Contact Group Troika Alexander Botsan-Kharchenko and added that Ahtisaari's plan "will not be used as the basis for the talks."</p>

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25-Aug	<p>"No status this year (dailies) Express reports that EU Envoy Wolfgang Ischinger during his visit to Pristina told the leaders that Kosovo status will not be resolved this year. He is, however, reported to have encouraged the Kosovo side to follow its line in the process despite the stand of Serbia."</p> <p>"Jessen-Petersen disappointed with the EU (dailies) In an interview for Radio Free Europe, former UNMIK chief Søren Jessen-Petersen said he is disappointed with the way things are developing in Kosovo. "I was very confident that the issue would be resolved in the UN Security Council but now I am very disappointed," he said."</p> <p>"Kostunica and Tadic not going to Vienna (Vecernje Novosti) Vecernje Novosti learns that Serbian President Boris Tadic and PM Vojislav Kostunica will not go to Vienna to meet with the Contact Group mediators. According to the daily, consultations are still ongoing, because the situation is quite unclear, but there is a firm belief that the Belgrade "strongest" team should not go to Vienna."</p>
27-Aug	<p>"Belgrade considers Vienna meeting as consultations for real talks, repeats Jeremic (B92) Belgrade will form its Kosovo team once the rules and terms of the upcoming talks are known, Vuk Jeremic said. "Once when the ways in which the negotiations will be conducted are completely clear, Belgrade will appoint its team," the foreign minister told B92 on Saturday."</p>
28-Aug	<p>"Unity Team to represent Kosovo in Vienna meeting (Dailies) Papers report that all members of the Unity Team will travel to Vienna in the meeting with the international Troika there. The Unity Team will present the view that independence should cover the whole region of Kosovo, Zëri reports."</p> <p>"Khalilzad: We can do without Russia (Dailies) U.S. Ambassador to the UN Zalmay Khalilzad is quoted in the paper saying that solution for Kosovo status should be also sought without Russia on board if it fails to agree to a resolution at the UN Security Council."</p> <p>"Kosovo status has to be resolved right after December 10 (dailies) The Special Envoy for Kosovo status Martti Ahtisaari said that it is the final time to solve Kosovo status, report dailies. "Kosovo is and should be the priority of Europe and it is time that the position from the phase of managing a conflict to a conclusion should move", Ahtisaari is quoted as saying in Zëri. Ahtisaari made the statements during the Bled Strategic Forum in Slovenia."</p> <p>"Dubrava – two resignations, one suspension (Dailies) Koha Ditore reports that nine days following the escape of seven convicts from Dubrava prison, the director of the prison Sokol Zogaj and the manager of Pavilion 1 Veli Gashi have handed in their resignations to the Justice Minister Jonuz Salihaj. "These resignations were not enough for the Minister who went on to suspend prison commissioner Xhevai Mexhuani," the paper writes."</p>
29-Aug	<p>"Verhagen: Division – creative idea (dailies) In coverage on the visit of Dutch Foreign Minister to Kosovo Maxime Verhagen, Express reports that the Dutch minister imitated his French counterpart Bernard Kouchner by speaking about division of Kosovo in Belgrade but then in Pristina mentioned it only as a creative idea."</p> <p>"Ahtisaari does not believe that talks will be successful (dailies) The special envoy of the United Nations for Kosovo status, Marti Ahtisaari, assessed that nothing new will come out of the additional talks between Pristina and Belgrade, reported Serbian media."</p> <p>"Kather: Kosovo understands that violence leads to a dead end (dailies) Papers report on the last regular press conference for the Kosovo media held by KFOR Commander Roland Kather on Tuesday."</p> <p>"Troika wants to hear fresh ideas (Tanjug) The EU believes that the mediating Troika should not bring forward its own proposals to Belgrade and Pristina on Thursday in Vienna, but rather hear out their ideas about the process of settling the future status of Kosovo, an unnamed EU official told Tanjug in Brussels."</p> <p>"Dutch FM: Partition acceptable if agreed by both parties (B92/Beta) Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen said that the partition of Kosovo would be an acceptable solution."</p>

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	<p>"Contact Group reiterates its principles (dailies) Koha Ditore reports that the countries of the Contact Group have reaffirmed their three guiding principles to the Troika during the additional talks between Pristina and Belgrade."</p> <p>"UNMIK fills legal vacuum of election process (dailies) Koha Ditore reports that UNMIK head Joachim Rucker has promulgated three regulations on elections, which include recommendations of the Elections Transitory Group such as a five percent election threshold and the direct election of mayors. "</p>
30-Aug	<p>"Belgrade announces its team for Vienna talks (RTS) The Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that Minister for Kosovo and the head of the operational part of the negotiating team Slobodan Samardzic and Minister of Foreign Affairs Vuk Jeremic will be co-presidents at consultations on the resumption of negotiations on the future status of Kosovo, with the Contact Group mediators in Vienna."</p> <p>"Slovenian support to Kosovo's independence endangers bilateral relations with Serbia (Tanjug) Aleksandar Simic, the Advisor to the Serbian PM, has assessed that Slovenian support to Kosovo's independence is endangering not only the EU policy, but also "good neighbourly" relations with Serbia."</p>
	<p>"Pristina offers friendship – Belgrade wants limitless talks (dailies) Koha Ditore reporting on the meeting of Kosovo and Serb leaders with the US/EU/Russian Troika says that the Unity Team members that met the Troika in the morning have proposed the building of good friendly relations between Kosovo and Serbia as two independent states."</p> <p>"Unity Team returns from Vienna content (dailies) Upon return from the meeting in Vienna, four members of the Unity Team – Fatmir Sejdiu, Agim Çeku, Kolë Berisha and Hashim Thaçi – held a press conference where they presented their impressions from the meeting."</p>
31-Aug	<p>"Families of missing persons are disappointed and tired of promises (dailies) Family members of missing persons in Kosovo protested on the international day of missing persons and sent a message that the waiting is coming to an end, report dailies."</p> <p>"KPS Police Officer, Triumf Riza, murdered (dailies) All dailies report about the yesterday's murder of a KPS police officer in Pristina. He was shot in the back while entering his car at a car park called, "Flamurtari" in the centre of Pristina."</p> <p>"Popovic meets mayors of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja (RTS) Vice president of the Coordinating Body for Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja Nenad Popovic met with municipality presidents of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medvedja Nagip Arifi, Ragmi Mustafa and Slobodan Draskovic to discuss the current economic problems in the region."</p>

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	<p>"Elections to be held on 17 November (dailies) Dailies report that after a long discussion with Unity Team members, which lasted for hours, the chief of UNMIK Joachim Rücker set 17 November as the date for local and parliamentary elections in Kosovo."</p>
	<p>"France appeals to EU for unity on Kosovo independence (Koha Ditore) France appeals to the European Union to be united and to recognise Kosovo's independence after its declaration in order not to have the repetition of the Balkans bloody history."</p>
1-Sep	<p>"Decision after 10 December (dailies) After the end of new talks and the submission of the report, scheduled for 10 December, to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a decision for the long-term status of Kosovo should be made, the head of the EU in Troika, Wolfgang Ischinger said for the Austrian daily "Der Standard".</p> <p>"France takes over KFOR command (dailies) Dailies report that Germany handed over to France the command over peacekeeping troops in Kosovo."</p>
	<p>"EU also preparing for "unilateral" recognition of independence (Koha Ditore) The paper reports that even though officials in the EU say they remain that an agreement on status of Kosovo can be reached between Pristina and Belgrade they admit that in the coming weeks and months the EU members states should get ready to face failure of the 120 days of talks and to recognize independence of Kosovo."</p>
2-Sep	<p>"Russia doesn't believe Kosovo will unilaterally declare independence (Koha Ditore) Russian Envoy Alexander Botsan-Kharchenko said he does not think Kosovo will unilaterally declare its independence adding that he has received guarantees from the top leadership that Pristina will refrain from such a move."</p> <p>"November elections with 1.5 million potential voters (Koha Ditore) The OSCE in cooperation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs is removing the names deceased persons from the voters roll and at the same time adding the names of individuals 18 years of age to the registration, writes Koha Ditore."</p>
	<p>"Pristina and Belgrade, direct encounter late September (Koha Ditore) The paper reports that the US/EU/ Russian Troika has assessed that Pristina and Belgrade are ready for direct talks on Kosovo's future status and that they've announced that the first such meeting is likely to be held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York at the end of September."</p>
3-Sep	<p>"Ischinger today in Belgrade, Wisner appeals to avoid violence (Zëri) EU Envoy for Kosovo Wolfgang Ischinger is expected to continue talks with Belgrade today. Over the next couple of days he is expected to inform the 27 chiefs of EU member states of the outcome of these talks, writes Zëri."</p> <p>"Suspect admits to the murder of Triumf Riza (dailies) The main suspect in the killing of KPS Police officer, Triumf Riza, has confessed to the murder."</p> <p>"Artemije expects nothing from new talks and rejects partition (Vecernje Novosti) "They are trying to trick us, but they will fail. They want to take Kosovo away from us, but they will fail."</p>

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	<p>"Ceku: EU should get ready for independence (Koha Ditore) The Kosovo government has reportedly appealed to Brussels to ready itself to recognize Kosovo's independence after the declaration because only independence can bring stability in the region, reports Koha Ditore."</p>
4-Sep	<p>"March against crime (dailies) All dailies report on the planned protest march in Pristina today. The march is a protest against crime, organized by local residents after the killing of KPS Police Officer Triumf Riza."</p> <p>"KFOR guarantees peace in Kosovo, now and after December 10 (dailies) Dailies report that KFOR has prepared for all eventualities which may emerge during the current political process in Kosovo, the new KFOR Commander has said."</p> <p>"Lavrov: Red line for Kosovo (Express) Express reports that Russia has maintained its position on Kosovo. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has highlighted Kosovo as one of the main points of Russia's foreign politics, on which his country will not negotiate."</p>
5-Sep	<p>"Kouchner: EU –united if talks fail (dailies ) Koha Ditore quotes news agency Reuters, which itself quotes French Foreign Minister Bernhard Kouchner as saying that EU states have to keep a united position for the future of Kosovo, in case that talks on status fail."</p> <p>"UNMIK allows Haradinaj to run for elections, ICTY silent (Dailies) Papers report that AAK leader Ramush Haradinaj currently being tried on war crimes allegations in The Hague Tribunal will be the name to lead his party's list in the upcoming elections."</p> <p>"Jeremic: Solution for Kosovo will determine future of the Balkans (Beta/Tanjug) The manner in which the issue of the future status of Kosovo is resolved will determine the future of the West Balkans, said in Bucharest Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic."</p>
6-Sep	<p>"EU against Kosovo's partition (Koha Ditore) In an address to the officials of the EU's Policy and Security Committee, EU Envoy for Kosovo status Wolfgang Ischinger said that the EU should have a unified strategy and know how to act after December 10."</p> <p>"Rehn: The European Union is against the partition of Kosovo (Zëri) B92 has reported that EU enlargement commissioner Olli Rehn has repeated that the EU will support any solution for Kosovo that is a result of an agreement between Belgrade and Pristina, reports Zëri."</p> <p>"UNMIK: Voluntary surrender allows Haradinaj participation in elections (Zëri) The AAK list can be led by its leader, former Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj, UNMIK officials said on Wednesday. According to UNMIK, this can be done only because Ramush Haradinaj surrendered voluntarily, reports Zëri."</p> <p>"Contact Group and Troika in London on September 18 and 19 (Tanjug) The political directors of the Contact Group for Kosovo and the mediating Troika will meet in London on September 18 and 19, the Foreign Office stated."</p> <p>"Rehn: EU for an agreed solution on Kosovo (Beta) The EU supports any agreed solution for the future status of Kosovo and would accept any solution on which Belgrade and Pristina were to agree on, except the division of the province, said in Brussels European Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn, after a meeting with Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic."</p> <p>"Jeremic talked about Presentation Document in NATO Council (RTS) In the NATO Council in Brussels, Serbian Foreign minister Vuk Jeremic talked about the Presentation Document on key objectives Serbia is interested in the PfP, as a statement of Serbia's commitment to creation of integral, free and peaceful Europe."</p>

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	<p>"The Troika will not leave any stone unturned in searching a solution for Kosovo (Koha Ditore) The EU representative in the Troika, Wolfgang Ischinger, has promised to the EU High Representative, Javier Solana that the Troika will not leave any stone unturned in the search for a solution for the Kosovo status, writes Koha Ditore."</p>
7-Sep	<p>"Scheffer: Partition of Kosovo, opens Pandora's box (Koha Ditore) The solution for the final status of Kosovo would be in favour of peace in the region, was a message from Tirana, from the Albanian Ambassador to NATO, Artur Kuko, to the NATO General Secretary, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer. Tirana is lobbying in the international offices, where the Kosovo status is being discussed, writes Koha Ditore."</p>
	<p>"Jeremic: Serbia will not threaten Kosovo with force (Tanjug) Serbia will not threaten Kosovo with military force, even though the proclamation of independence of the province would open up a 'Pandora's Box' of security problems in the Balkans, said Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic to The Financial Times."</p>
9-Sep	<p>"US ready to recognize unilateral independence (dailies) Dailies reported on Sunday that Kurt Walker, the US Assistant Secretary of State, said that the US were ready to unilaterally recognize Kosovo's independence, if the United Nations Security Council fails to reach a consensus on the status of Kosovo. ""</p> <p>"EU – effort to reach unity by December 10 (Dailies) In the coverage of the EU foreign ministers meeting in Portugal, Koha Ditore on the front page says the EU is getting ready to overcome one of its major challenges – Kosovo status solution."</p>
	<p>"Political parties in negotiations for pre-election coalitions (dailies) Several dailies report on the negotiations by political parties to form coalitions before the 17 November elections. Under the leading front-page headline Small political parties seek salvation with bigger parties, Koha Ditore reports that the signing of many agreements for coalitions, especially between smaller and bigger parties, was conditioned by the decision of the Unity Team to establish a 5 per cent threshold for a seat in the Kosovo Assembly."</p>
10-Sep	<p>"Kosovo Serbs seek urgent meeting with Tadic and Kostunica (Koha Ditore) Serb National Council in its recent meeting assessed that the situation in Kosovo has become "extremely dramatic and uncertain" and therefore have requested a meeting with the Serbian President Boris Tadic and Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica, the paper reports, citing Serbian news agency FoNet."</p> <p>"Botsan-Harchenko: Kosovo issue - issue of UN (Tanjug) The issue of the future status of Kosovo is the issue of the UN, Russian representative in the Troika Aleksandar Botsan-Harchenko told Tanjug, and official Moscow will not accept solutions that are undermining the world order and international law."</p>

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	<p>"Kostunica offers EU partition of Kosovo (Koha Ditore) The paper writes that partition of Kosovo is being offered as an option by the Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica who has begun conveying this idea to different European capitals through unofficial channels and through bypassing the Serbian Foreign Minister who comes from the ranks of Boris Tadic's DS."</p>
11-Sep	<p>"Mesic and Rücker discuss Kosovo (Dailies) Croatian President Stjepan Mesić and UNMIK chief Joachim Rücker met in Zagreb yesterday and the two discussed Kosovo status process. Mesić and Rücker stressed the need for a resolution of the Kosovo status, Zëri reports quoting a press release from Mesić's cabinet."</p>
	<p>"Thaçi travels to Brussels on Solana's invitation (dailies) Dailies report that PDK and opposition leader Hashim Thaçi has travelled to Brussels after an invitation by European Union High Representative Javier Solana. "We certainly want the decision on Kosovo to be made at the United Nations Security Council, but for every kind of circumstance we are ready and united as Kosovo together with the international community for the final decision," Thaçi was quoted as saying."</p>
	<p>"Sejdiu appeals to EU for unity on Kosovo (Dailies) Following a meeting of the Unity Team, its chairman and Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu said the Kosovo side is hopeful the 27 countries of the EU will come up with a common vision in support of Kosovo's independence."</p>
12-Sep	<p>"DiCarlo: Ahtisaari's plan if no agreement reached (Dailies) The US government has not changed its position regarding the possible final solution for Kosovo, said Rosemary DiCarlo US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia."</p>
	<p>"Political parties to submit list of election candidates today (dailies) Koha Ditore reports that the biggest problem for the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) is the selection of a candidate for Pristina Mayor. According to Express, current Pristina Mayor Ismet Beqiri has won the race to run again for the post "in a contradictory atmosphere in the LDK chairmanship."</p>

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	<p>"Independence under Resolution 1244 (Koha Ditore) UN Security Council Resolution 1244 is not an obstacle for declaring independence of Kosovo but the declared independence will not necessarily invalidate 1244, the paper writes."</p>
	<p>"De Hoop Scheffer: Let's wait for Troika (Koha Ditore) NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer visited on Thursday Berlin. Two main issues that were discussed with the German Foreign Minister, Frank Walter Steinmeier, were Kosovo and Afghanistan, writes Koha Ditore."</p>
	<p>"Calls on the EU (Express) Kosovo Prime Minister Agim Çeku called on the European Union not to allow other countries to dictate EU policy on the future of Kosovo."</p>
14-Sep	<p>"Lavrov: Creation of state takes time, even in agreements of both parties (dailies) Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov has stated on Wednesday that the East Timor case shows that much time is needed for creation of a new state even if both sides reach an agreement and that agreement is recognized by the United Nations, report the papers."</p> <p>"Hand grenade damages two police cars (Koha Ditore) The paper reports that there was an explosion on Wednesday night in Gjilan at the yard of the police station. Preliminary investigations have found that the explosive device was a hand grenade and two KPS police cars were damaged from the blast but no people were injured."</p> <p>"Tadic: Serbia will never go to war in Kosovo (RTS) Serbian President Boris Tadic warned that an independent Kosovo would be a precedent in the world, and that this example could be followed by other countries"</p>
	<p>"Confederation also a proposal (Koha Ditore) A western diplomat told Koha Ditore on Friday that after the elections in Kosovo a proposal for a Serbia-Kosovo confederation can be expected from Serbia."</p>
15-Sep	<p>"Ischinger: Kosovo status has to be decided now (dailies) The EU representative of the negotiating Troika, Wolfgang Ischinger, has stated that the international community would have to decide "now" on the future status of Kosovo, report the dailies."</p> <p>"Deputies expect fall in Assembly work output during the election campaign (dailies) Kosovo Assembly deputies have assessed that the election campaign will affect the work of the Kosovo Assembly, writes Zëri. According to the deputies, the Kosovo Assembly needs to set a final agenda for work when it enters the last two working months."</p> <p>"COMKFOR requests stability during the status process and elections (dailies) Dailies report on COMKFOR's remarks made before entering a closed meeting with representatives of the Orthodox Monastery in Decan."</p>
16-Sep	<p>"EU to recognize independence in 2007 (Express) The paper claims to be in possession of transcripts of conversations about Kosovo's independence between political directors of two influential EU countries."</p>
17-Sep	<p>"EU getting ready to recognize Kosovo without a UN SC resolution? (Zëri) On the front page, the paper says that it seems the EU has started to view the epilogue of Kosovo status process in a deeper way. EU Envoy, Wolfgang Ischinger, according to the paper is likely to be creating the right impression with the vast majority of EU states that he and his two other colleagues will do everything they can to help reaching an agreement between Pristina and Belgrade. But the view that prevails in biggest EU countries is that Pristina and Belgrade will not be able to agree on the status issue."</p> <p>"Thaçi: Kosovo will very soon be independent and recognized (Dailies) Koha Ditore reports that the leader of PDK and the member of the Unity Team, Hashim Thaçi has said on Saturday afternoon that Kosovo very soon will be an independent state, internationally recognized."</p>

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	<p>"Unity Team insists on independence this year (dailies) In a meeting of the Unity Team held yesterday, Koha Ditore reports that institutional leaders of Kosovo have not yet lost hope that independence of Kosovo can be achieved by the end of the year. Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister Agim Çeku are reported to have said that the Kosovo delegation in status talks is still working to have Kosovo independent by the end of 2007."</p>
18-Sep	<p>"Putin: Consequences of Kosovo's independence to be borne by the West (Infopress) Russian President Vladimir Putin in a debate with Russian analysts and politicians spoke about Kosovo and the possibility for it to unilaterally declare independence. "In this case, the West would carry all the responsibility for the consequences," Putin is quoted to have said."</p> <p>"Canada supports processes in Kosovo (dailies) Canada will support Kosovo in its final process, the Canadian ambassador in Belgrade, Robert MacDougall, promised on Monday in Pristina after meeting the leaders of Kosovo."</p>
	<p>"Unity Team travels to London to meet Troika (dailies) All dailies report that the Kosovo Negotiating Team – the Unity Team - has travelled to London where they will meet the international Troika as part of discussions for the resolution of Kosovo's status."</p>
19-Sep	<p>"Ischinger again with contradictory statements (dailies) On its front page Koha Ditore reports that President Sejdiu received an urgent phone call from the EU Envoy Wolfgang Ischinger assuring him that the reporting in the media, where he was quoted as saying that the international community is backing down from support of Kosovo's independence is a misinterpretation."</p> <p>"Ban Ki-Moon: Resolution of Kosovo status long and difficult process (RTS) UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that he was committed to intensively working on resolving current problems such as Kosovo, the Middle East and climate changes."</p>
	<p>"Ban Ki-moon says that Kosovo problem can not be solved overnight (dailies) The United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon has stated in New York that he is committed to intensive work for solving the current problem like in Kosovo, Middle East and climate changes."</p>
20-Sep	<p>"Tadic: Unilateral independence can bring war (dailies) The President of Serbia, Boris Tadic has warned in an interview given to the Check newspaper "Hospoda ske noviny" that if there is a unilateral declaration of independence, war can break out, which would be the worst solution."</p> <p>"UNMIK: We can not hold the process that long (Koha Ditore) The international administration in Kosovo has sent on Wednesday an appeal for help, because peace in Kosovo is at risk because of the status not being solved."</p>
	<p>"Pristina does not agree to discuss status or new delays (dailies) On return from the meeting with the Troika in London, members of the Unity Team said, as quoted in Zëri, that they do not agree on status discussions with Serbia or with further delays in the process beyond 10 December."</p>
21-Sep	<p>"U.S. has two plans for the recognition of Kosovo independence (dailies) The U.S. Administration will recognize Kosovo's independence, which will most probably be declared right after December 10, according to a report on Thursday in the daily Serbian newspaper Vecernje Novosti."</p>

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22-Sep	<p>"Sejdiu: Kosovo is not Hong-Kong (Dailies) Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu is reported to have ruled out the application of the Hong-Kong model for resolution of Kosovo status, the paper reports. Sejdiu said Kosovo is a sui generis case and has not similarities with the situation in Hong-Kong."</p> <p>"KFOR raises suspicions there may be no status solution this year (Dailies) COMKFOR Xavier de Marnhac in the first press conference since he assumed his duty said KFOR is committed to provide security for Kosovo and its people."</p>
23-Sep	<p>"Reporter Milaim Zeka's house set on fire (Express) It is the third time that the house of journalist Milaim Zeka was set on fire, reports Express. Even though Zeka has some suspects, the Police did not arrest anyone. The damages are assessed around hundred thousand euros."</p>
24-Sep	<p>"UNMIK enables manipulation of votes (Dailies) Koha Ditore writes that the decision of UNMIK chief Joachim Rucker to enable Kosovo citizens living outside of Kosovo the possibility to vote through ballots published in papers, by photocopying them or by downloading them from the internet has caused negative reactions with political parties like AAK and ORA."</p> <p>"Bugajski: Independence in 2008 (Dailies) Balkans analyst from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies Janusz Bugajski in an interview for RFE said developments in Kosovo will move very fast after 10 December and Kosovo will get supervised independence as of 2008."</p> <p>"Bogdanovic: Albanians should be satisfied with substantial autonomy (dailies) Koha Ditore reports that, in negotiations with Kosovo Albanians in New York, Belgrade will offer an acceptable solution for both sides, namely the decentralization of the province according to Goran Bogdanovic, member of the Serbian negotiating Team, who also believes that every side will be satisfied with this solution."</p> <p>"Unilateral independence would create a problem in B&amp;H (Tanjug) Republika Srpska Prime Minister Milorad Dodik warned that a unilateral proclamation of independence of Kosovo would cause numerous debates and political processes in Republika Srpska, which would be very difficult to control."</p>
25-Sep	<p>"Explosion shocks Pristina, two dead, nine injured (dailies) All dailies lead with the explosion that occurred in the early hours of Monday morning on Bill Clinton Boulevard in Pristina. The blast left two people dead and nine injured. KPS units, firefighters and KFOR demining units were immediately on site. KPS spokesman Veton Elshani said that for now neither the type of the explosive used nor the motive behind the attack is known."</p> <p>"Sarkozy: Independence of Kosovo unavoidable (dailies) France's President Nicolas Sarkozy said the independence of Kosovo is inevitable and that the issue of Kosovo should be solved by EU countries. In an interview with The New York Times, Sarkozy also said there is the chance that Russia may still use its veto power to block a resolution for Kosovo, but added that the US views this reality as a test for EU determination."</p> <p>"Pristina doesn't believe in agreement with Belgrade (dailies) Kosovo Unity Team members do not expect Belgrade to propose anything acceptable in the upcoming round of talks set for Friday in New York, Koha Ditore reports. It adds that Kosovo negotiators in fact believe that Belgrade continues to keep Kosovo as its hostage by doing everything possible to destabilize it."</p> <p>"Miliband to chair Contact Group meeting in New York (Tanjug) The meeting of the Contact Group member-states, at the level of foreign ministers, which will be held in New York on Thursday, will be chaired by British Foreign Minister David Miliband, Tanjug finds out in the Foreign Office."</p>

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26-Sep	<p>"Rice: Only independence for Kosovo (dailies) U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated on Monday that only independence for Kosovo could bring stability to the Balkans, and Europe should join the U.S. in supporting the creation of a Kosovo state, reports Koha Ditore."</p>
	<p>Rice: Only independence of Kosovo can bring stability to the Balkans (RTS/Reuters)</p>
	<p>"PDSRSG Steven Schook under investigations (Dailies) Koha Ditore on the front page said that the second top official in UNMIK, Steven Schook, has announced that an investigation is being conducted against him for alleged friendships with Kosovo politicians but also for relationships with international and Kosovar women."</p>
27-Sep	<p>"Lavrov: Declarations for independence of Kosovo do not help the process (dailies) Chief of Russian Diplomacy, Sergey Lavrov has opposed the position of his US counterpart, Condoleezza Rice that Kosovo by all means will be independent, writes Koha Ditore."</p>
	<p>"US view on Kosovo (Tanjug) US President George Bush supported independence of Kosovo in talks with Albanian Premier Sali Berisha, who is in New York, Albanian ATA agency reports. "President Bush offered me assurances on his full support to independence of Kosovo," Berisha told the press in New York, ATA reports."</p>
	<p>"Contact Group wants constructive engagement from Pristina and Belgrade (dailies) All member states of the Contact Group have agreed on Thursday that Belgrade and Pristina have to engage maximally in the negotiating process, said British Foreign Secretary David Miliband, report dailies. Miliband has said this after the meeting of the Contact Group Foreign Ministers in the United Nations Headquarters, where they were suppose to determine the agenda of the direct talks between Pristina and Belgrade."</p>
	<p>"Fried tells Serbia not to deal with the past anymore (dailies) U.S. Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia, Daniel Fried, has called on the Belgrade authorities to leave the past behind them, report dailies."</p>
28-Sep	<p>"ICTY confirms decision to acquit Limaj and Musliu (Dailies) Papers report that the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia decided to respect the acquittal of Fatmir Limaj and Isak Musliu while the appeal of Haradin Bala who is sentenced to 13 years was rejected."</p>
	<p>"Assembly starts implementation of "the supervised independence" (dailies) Apart from the declaration to support Ahtisaari's package, Kosovo Assembly has gone a step further in its implementation, report the dailies."</p>
	<p>"Kostunica rejected the possibility of confederation with Kosovo (Tanjug) Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica rejected the possibility of forming a confederation of Serbia with Kosovo, which, in talks with the Serbian PM in New York, had been presented as an informal suggestion by Italian Deputy PM Massimo D'Alema, Minister for Kosovo Slobodan Samardzic told Tanjug."</p>

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	<p>"Ischinger to propose the German model, Serbia already refuses (dailies) The EU representative of the Troika, Wolfgang Ischinger, has proposed that Serbia and Kosovo build their relationship as two states – the same way two German states did with the agreement signed in 1972."</p>
	<p>"Çeku: No space for Kosovo – Serbia confederation (dailies) Official Pristina has refused any constitutional relation with Serbia, as a solution for the status, report the papers."</p>
31-Oct	<p>"Adoption of Kosovo symbols law sped up (dailies) If the decision of the Unity Team proceeds according to its agenda, by year-end holidays, Kosovo will also have its own state flag, separate from the red and black flag, report dailies."</p> <p>"Kostunica: We will reject Ischinger's proposal (RTS/Tanjug) Serbian President Boris Tadic will participate in the next round of direct Belgrade-Pristina talks on the future Kosovo status in Vienna, the Serbian Presidency told Tanjug"</p> <p>"Tadic: EU membership Serbia's key strategic goal (RTS) Serbian President Boris Tadic emphasized that the EU membership is the key strategic goal of Serbia, but pointed that the solution for the future Kosovo status might fundamentally influence the speed and manner of European integration of the entire region."</p>
30-Oct	<p>"Decision will be reached before December 10 (dailies) Kosovo negotiators still have not started consultations with their western allies, as to the timing of a declaration of independence, but warned against any further delays, report dailies. In principle, the Unity Team does still does not considered the 14 point document of Troika as serious, since it was not drafted as a proposal document"</p> <p>"KPC says its image is being misused by the AKR campaign (dailies) Koha Ditore and Zëri report that the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) has accused the New Kosovo Alliance (AKR) led by Behgjet Pacolli of tarnishing its image through the party's election campaign. A communiqué issued by KPC notes that the name of the organization in television ads or in election videos damages the image of this important institution."</p>
29-Oct	<p>"Vasic: If Albanians get power in Novobrdo, we will flee to Greece (dailies) Several dailies quote Novobrdo mayor Petar Vasic as saying that if Kosovo Serbs do not participate in elections they will lose power in the municipality of Novobrdo and with this they will lose everything."</p>
27-Oct	<p>"Ischinger: We are entering into the most critical phase (dailies) Papers report that Wolfgang Ischinger, the German Ambassador to London, can be forgiven if he thinks he is the main person in the centre of political disagreement for the future of Kosovo."</p> <p>"Earhart: US is committed to Kosovo issue (dailies) "There was no decision for the withdrawal. This is a Pentagon issue, but what I can say is that the ninth US General is ending his mission, and the tenth General has been appointed to command US troops in Kosovo," papers quote General Douglas Earhart as saying."</p> <p>"Putin asks for patience (dailies) Papers report that Russian President Vladimir Putin asked EU leaders to be a bit more patient regarding Kosovo issue."</p>

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	<p>"Troika is drafting an agreement for the status (dailies) The 14 points presented by the Troika for discussion at the Vienna meeting between Pristina and Belgrade are now being fleshed out, and at the end of the process the document is expected to turn into an agreement on the status of Kosovo, which would be offered to both sides for final discussion and approval, reports"</p>
26-Oct	<p>"Slovenia: Independence of Kosovo, difficult to happen this year (dailies) Slovenia has expressed doubt over the likelihood that Kosovo's status will be resolved this year. Slovenia's Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel on Thursday said he hoped that Kosovo's status is solved by the end of the year, before Slovenia takes over the EU presidency on January 1, 2008, but "this seems not to be possible."</p> <p>"EU intends to recognize Kosovo as a state (dailies /Die Welt) Dailies quote a report in the German daily newspaper Die Welt as saying that the European Union is now close to a position, almost unanimous, to recognize the independence of Kosovo."</p> <p>"Chyzhov: Deadline might be prolonged after 10 December (RTS) Russian Ambassador with the EU Vladimir Chyzhov stated that the deadline to find a solution for the future Kosmet status might be prolonged after 10 December."</p>
25-Oct	<p>"Rupel: Slovenia to hold the same position as EU over Kosovo (dailies) Dailies quote Slovenian Foreign Minister Dimitrij Rupel as saying that Slovenia would hold the same position as the European Union over Kosovo."</p>
	<p>"Germany decides to recognize Kosovo's independence (dailies) All dailies cite a report broadcast on German public radio Deutschlandfunk as saying that the German Government has decided to recognize the independence of Kosovo after December 10, when it is declared by local institutions."</p>
24-Oct	<p>"Ischinger: Endless negotiations are dangerous (dailies) Dailies quote the EU representative in the Troika Wolfgang Ischinger as saying that it would be dangerous to negotiate Kosovo's status forever, adding that a resolution to the issue can be reached by December 10 if there is political will on both sides."</p> <p>"SRSR Rucker asks SNC to allow elections in the north (dailies) All dailies cover SRSR Joachim Rucker's visit to northern Mitrovica on Tuesday where he met representatives of the Serb National Council (SNC) following threats made against the Serb electorate and an announcement that schools, which are intended to serve as polling stations, would remain shut on November 17."</p> <p>"Guldimann calls on Kosovo Serbs to participate in elections (dailies) Dailies quote the OSCE Head of Mission Tim Guldimann as saying that Kosovo Albanian leaders must engage for the integration of all communities in Kosovo."</p>
23-Oct	<p>"Serious clash between Pristina and Belgrade in Vienna (dailies) All dailies report on the front pages on a serious clash between the Pristina and Belgrade delegations during the direct meeting in Vienna. Zëri reports that members of the Kosovo Unity Team admitted publicly that yesterday's meeting was grave, accusing the Serbian side for unprincipled positions that resemble the Milosevic era."</p> <p>"Gates: Do not withdraw your troops (dailies) All dailies report that the US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates has called on NATO countries to be ready for developments in Kosovo after 10th December."</p>

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22-Oct	<p>"Kouchner asks Pristina to not hurry with the unilateral independence (dailies) France Chief Diplomacy Bernhard Kouchner has requested from the Unity Team to be engaged for a compromise in the next meeting with the Serbian side in Vienna, reports Zëri."</p> <p>"Kouchner calls on Kosovo Albanians to show spirit of compromise (Beta) French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner has called on Kosovo Albanians to demonstrate a "spirit of compromise" during the discussions with the Serbian delegation and the Troika on 22 October in Vienna."</p>
19-Oct	<p>"VOA journalist assaulted in Gracanica (dailies) Serbian correspondent of VOA, Vesna Bojicic was assaulted in Wednesday morning in her house in Caglavica by an unknown person, writes Koha Ditore."</p>
18-Oct	<p>"Rehn: 10 December to be respected (dailies) Koha Ditore reports EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn as saying that the European Union thinks that the December 10 deadline should be respected."</p> <p>"Sejdiu and Schook assess that elections will not hinder status (dailies) Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu and the Deputy Chief of UNMIK, Steven Schook, say elections will be held on time, and that there are no indications that the electoral process has negatively influenced the status process, the papers report."</p> <p>"UNMIK admits that it has not done as much as needed for Mitrovica (dailies) KFOR and UNMIK are reviewing strategies to maintain peace and the integrity of the Mitrovica city, papers report."</p>
17-Oct	<p>"USA: Solution for Kosovo is independence (Dailies) U.S. State Department Spokesman Tom Casey is quoted as saying that if no agreement is reached between Pristina and Belgrade by 10 December, the USA expects the scenario of supervised independence for Kosovo to go ahead."</p> <p>"Head of the Procurement division in the Assembly suspended (dailies) Obvious irregularities regarding the two tenders announced some time ago, have obliged the Assembly Head, Kolë Berisha to ask from the Assembly Secretary, Ismet Krasniqi, the suspension of Hilmi Bajrami which is the Head of Procurement Division, report the papers."</p>
16-Oct	<p>"Unity Team returns from Brussels (Dailies) Upon return from the direct meeting with the Serbian side, members of the Kosovo Unity Team said in a press conference that Kosovars have opposed to the approach of the Serbian delegation which had offered substantial autonomy for Kosovo whilst Belgrade would continue to retain Kosovo sovereignty."</p> <p>"Samardzic: Troika to present a working paper in the Vienna meeting (dailies) According to the Serbian Negotiator, Slobodan Samardzic, in the upcoming meeting with both sides on the 22nd of October, Troika will present a "working paper" with common issues for the Pristina and Belgrade delegation, on which both sides can discuss, writes the papers."</p> <p>"Jeremic: No giving up on Serbia's sovereignty (RTS) Serbian is ready to give up many things in the Kosovo status negotiations, but not the state sovereignty over its southern province, Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic stated in his address to the participants of the Economic Summit."</p>

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	<p>"Pristina and Belgrade explain their positions (dailies) All dailies cover on the front pages the second direct meeting between Pristina and Belgrade held in Brussels, which according to Zëri ended without any hope for approximation of positions between the two parties."</p>
15-Oct	<p>"Tsar Lazar Guard" protest: Much ado about nothing (Dailies) Koha Ditore reports that the announcements of the "Tsar Lazar Guard" that it would enter Kosovo north on Sunday to protest and declare state of emergency did not materialize. "The announcements were great but the day was calm," the paper says."</p> <p>"Kosovo – one of the main topics in Merkel-Putin meeting (dailies) The regular consultations between Germany and Russia started Sunday afternoon in Wiesbaden Germany, Apart from bilateral relations in economics, politics and other spheres, a special attention will be paid to foreign politics, focusing on Kosovo, report dailies."</p>
14-Oct	<p>"Unity Team does not expect miracles from Brussels (dailies) Dailies reported on Sunday that the Kosovo delegation travelled to Brussels for the direct meeting with Belgrade, not expecting any positive results in the status resolution process. Kosovar negotiators however said that after this meeting Kosovo would at least be two days closer to independence."</p> <p>"Police and KFOR ban "Tsar Lazar Guard" from entering Kosovo (Dailies) Koha Ditore quotes officials in KPS saying that if members of the "Tsar Lazar Guard" attempt to enter Kosovo and protest in the northern part of Mitrovica, they will be treated as members of an illegal organisation and will be arrested."</p> <p>"Jeremic: Serbian sovereignty is the red line (Vecernje Novosti) Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic stated that at the talks in Brussels, the Serbian delegation will not cross the "red line of Serbian sovereignty and territorial integrity:""</p>
13-Oct	<p>"Tsar Lazar Guard" will not be allowed to demonstrate in Mitrovica (Dailies) Zëri reports that the police will enforce the law and the executive directive of UNMIK chief Joachim Rucker to prevent the gathering of the "Tsar Lazar Guard" in the north of Mitrovica."</p> <p>"Jessen-Petersen says independence will be the solution for Kosovo (Dailies) In an interview for BBC, former SRSG Søren Jessen-Petersen said in case the UN Security Council fails to approve a resolution for Kosovo, many countries in the world agree that other ways should be sought to resolve Kosovo status."</p>
11-Oct	<p>"Unity Team returns encouraged from London visit (dailies) All dailies cover the return of the Kosovo Negotiating Team from London where they met British Foreign Secretary David Milliband. "The United Kingdom stands firmly in support of the Ahtisaari Package as the best solution," President Fatmir Sejdiu is quoted as saying in Koha Ditore. Sejdiu expressed hope that Russia will not prevent Kosovo's independence at the United Nations Security Council."</p>
9-Oct	<p>Kosovo delegation travels to London (dailies)</p>
8-Oct	<p>"Ischinger: A "Dayton" for Kosovo could be held (dailies) EU representative of the Troika Wolfgang Ischinger has announced the chance of a Dayton-style conference for Kosovo to be held somewhere in Europe either at the end of November or early December, according to news reports."</p>

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	<p>"Kosovars comment on Frank Wisner's statement (dailies) Koha Ditore reports that Kosovar negotiators do not have a united position about the most recent US position that there are slim chances that Kosovo's status will be resolved by the end this year."</p>
	<p>"Pre-election campaign – 21 days (dailies) Dailies report that after a request from the Team of Unity, SRSJ Joachim Rucker has decided that the campaign for 17th November elections will last 21 days."</p>
6-Oct	<p>"Scheffer: NATO deals with security only (dailies) Dailies quote NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer as saying in Brussels that NATO activities in Kosovo are not related to the power issue, but to the creation of conditions for safety and stability in Kosovo with the intention of protecting both the majority and minorities."</p> <p>"Kostunica: Attempt of fragmentation of Serbia - greatest challenge since 5 October 2007 (RTS) Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica has assessed that the attempt of fragmentation of Serbia is the biggest challenge Serbia has been facing since the changes of 5 October 2000."</p>
	<p>"Kosovo institutions react to ANA's public appearance on RTK (Dailies) Papers carry reactions from Kosovo leadership on the appearance of Albanian National Army (ANA) members on public television RTK. Leaders called on the people of Kosovo to distance themselves from ANA and continue to have faith in NATO and the main guaranteeing security force."</p>
5-Oct	<p>"Wisner: No big chances for status solution this year (dailies) It is not to be expected that the status will be solved this year, because of the very simple reason "there is not enough time", said Frank Wisner, U.S. Representative of the Troika, report the dailies."</p> <p>"Rehn: Kosovo will not become a U.S. state and Serbia will not become a Russian state (dailies) EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn said yesterday that EU is ready to look for all possible ways which the solution for Kosovo can be achieved through negotiations, dailies report."</p>
4-Oct	<p>"EU ready for the mission after December 10 (dailies) EU High Representative Javier Solana said on Wednesday to European parliamentarians in Brussels that after December 10, there will certainly be a discussion in the UN Security Council about the Troika's report, reports Koha Ditore. Solana also said that whatever the outcome, the EU has to be ready for its mission in Kosovo after this date."</p> <p>"Rucker requests from Assembly to review but not approve laws from Ahtisaari's package (dailies) Head of Assembly Kolë Berisha and chief of UNMIK, Joachim Rucker, met yesterday and discussed the issue of approving the Ahtisaari package laws."</p>

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	<p>"Ban Ki- moon: Delay in status solution is a potential for violence (dailies) Dailies report about the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon which has warned the Security Council members that no solution of the status could induce violence."</p>
3-Oct	<p>"Declaration of independence not a "forbidden fruit" (Dailies) Koha Ditore reports that the Unity Team ruled out the possibility of not being allowed by western allies to declare independence from Serbia. The Team's Spokesman Skender Hyseni said after the Team's meeting that there is no agreement signed that would prevent the Kosovo side to declare independence."</p>
	<p>"Rücker asks Assembly not to approve laws from Ahtisaari's package before status resolution (dailies)"</p>
2-Oct	<p>"Çeku: After December 10, "coordinated" independence (dailies) Dailies report about the trilateral meeting of COMKFOR Xavier de Marnhac, SRSJ Joachim Rücker and Prime Minister Agim Çeku that was held yesterday at KFOR Headquarters in Pristina."</p>
1-Oct	<p>"Unity Team returns from New York (dailies) In a press conference held after arriving from New York, where they met the Serbian side and the Troika, Kosovo's Unity Team said that December 10 will mark the end of the status process, and that the issue of Kosovo's independence will not be discussed at the next meeting with the Serbian delegation scheduled for October 14 in Brussels."</p> <p>"Solana: Talks in New York were constructive (dailies) High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana has reportedly said that the first direct meeting between Kosovo and Serbia delegations was constructive, dailies report."</p> <p>"Olli Rehn wants an agreement as soon as possible (dailies) EU Enlargement Commissioner Olli Rehn has appealed to Serbs and Kosovars not to further delay the final status of Kosovo, report dailies. "If you look at a long term plan, you can see that Serbia and Kosovo are dependent on each other," Rehn told the Voice of America. Rehn added that the European Union would prefer to see an agreed solution rather than a unilateral act."</p>

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