



# EARLY WARNING REPORT

KOSOVO

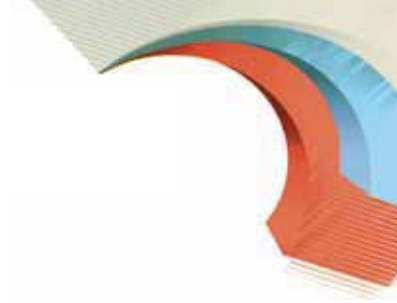
- Political and Institutional Stability
- Economic and Social Stability
- Inter-ethnic Relations
- Public and Personal Security
- Environmental Issues in Kosovo

Report

April-June 2010

28





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August 2010

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

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**Your comments and feedback are important for further development of the reports.  
Please forward these to: [early.warning.ks@undp.org](mailto:early.warning.ks@undp.org)**

### Geographic regions of Kosovo



## Selected Economic Indicators

	Jan-Mar 2005	Jul-Sep 2005	Jan-Jun 2006	Oct-Dec 2006	Apr-Jun 2007	Nov-Dec 2007	July-Sept 2008	Apr-Jun 2009	Jan-March 2010	Trend
Population (in ,000) (a)	1,999*		2,033 **		2.07**	2.1**	2.1**	2.2*	2.2*	◀▶
GDP growth rate (annual), % (a)	0.3		3.0			3.5	3.5	5.4(a)	3.8** (a)	▼
GDP per capita, € (a)	1,120 (a)		1,117 (a)			1,150 (q)	1,150	1,784(a)	1,731**(a)	▼
KCB (Annual), million € (b)	641.5		713.2 (l)		553 (m)		862.13	862.13	895.9 (m)	▲
Workers' remittances, million €	281.0 (a)		318.0 (a)			398	467 (p)	535.8 (q)	535.8 (q)	◀▶
Foreign assistance, million € (a)	462.0 *		465.0 *			352 (r)	275**			
KPST fund, million € (c)	145.8		167.5 (May) (d)	213.0 (Dec) (k)					380.7	▲
PAK fund, million € (e)	113.1 (Dec)		234.9	275.0 (Dec)		399.9 (Nov-Dec 2007)	426.1 (May)		451.0	▲
Bank deposits, million €	704.8	765.8 (Aug)	844.6 (Apr) (e)	926.4 (Dec)	967.6 (Apr)	1.228 (Dec)(s)	1.183 (p) (May)	1.513 (q) (Jun)	1.65 (q) (Sep)	▲
Commercial bank loans, million €	356.5 (Feb)	401.8 (Aug)	459.7 (Apr) (e)	490.5 (Dec)	560.2 (Apr)	891.2 (Dec)(t)	1,052.8 (p) (May)	1,281 (q) (Jun)	1,281 (q) (Sep)	◀▶
Trade balance, million € (j)	-219.1 (Jan-Mar)	-723.4 (Jan-Aug)	-537.5 (Jan-Jun)	-1235.3 (Jan-Dec)	-400 (Jan-Apr)	-264.6 (Nov-Dec) (n)	-142 (May)		-152 (Sep)	▼
Registered job-seekers	303,095 (Jan)	314,446 (Aug)	323,201 (May)	326,026 (Dec)		334,595 (Dec)	336,366 (Mar 2008) (n)	338,618 (May 2009) (q)	339,418 (Sep 2009) (q)	▲
Consumer Price Index, % (compared to May 2002) ***	101.4 (May)	98.5 (Aug)	102.9 (May)	102.6 (Nov)	99.4 (Apr)	102.8 (Dec)	112.8 (Jul)		108.8 (Sep)	▼
Basic pensions (per month), €	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		70	
Voluntary returns		2,126		1,608 (g)						

\* 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:

- a) IMF Aide Memoire, (September 2007 and June 2009);  
 b) MEF (2006), Budget, MEF, Government of Kosovo, Prishtinë/Priština.  
 c) KPST (2005), Annual Report 2005, KPST, Prishtinë/Priština.  
 d) Assessment obtained from KPST through e-mail.  
 e) CBAK (2006), Monthly Statistics Bulletin, No. 56, BPK, Prishtinë/Priština, April 2006.  
 f) 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.

g) United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees Kosovo.

h) BPK (2006), Monthly Statistics Bulletin, No. 56, BPK, Prishtinë/Priština, August 2006.

i) Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, 2006.

j) This is the trade deficit for the period Jan-Feb 2007, Statistical Office of Kosovo

k) This figure is reported at KPST's website, date of release February 7th, 2007

(l) CBAK (2007). Monthly Statistics Bulletin for December 2006. No (64). Prishtina

(m) Kosovo Ministry of Economy and Finance

(n) Ministry of Public Services of Kosovo - Quarterly Bulletin May 2008

(p) CBAK - MONTHLY STATISTICS BULLETIN May 2008

(q) CBAK - MONTHLY STATISTICS BULLETIN

(r) CBAK - Annual Report 2008

## Selected Indicators from the Opinion Poll

	Mar 2005	Sep 2005	Jun 2006	Dec 2006	Jun 2007	Dec 2007	Sep 2008	Nov 2008	Jun 2009	Sep 2009	Jan 2010	Apr 2010	Trend
	a)	b)	c)	d)	e)	f)	g)	o)	p)	q)	r)	s)	
Political pessimism, % ("very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" with current political trends)	38.6	41.0	43.4	48.9	54.0	41.1	36.0	35.73%	26.78%	33.03%	41.08%	37.30%	▼
Economic pessimism, % ("very dissatisfied" or "dissatisfied" with current economic trends)	71.1	68.8	76.0	76.2	70.7	64.6	53.0	55.0	43.48%	57.07%	60.31%	53.80%	▼
Willingness to protest due to economic reasons, %	62.9	57.4	62.8	42.8	54.9	71.3	68.3	75.7%	64.32%	66.58%	63.40%	59.2%	▼
Willingness to protest due to political reasons, %	48.9	45.4	45.5	30.9	31.2	58.6	49.2	59.5%	45.21%	50.68%	46.06%	49.2%	▲
Satisfaction with UNMIK's performance*, %	29.7	34.5	30.5	28.0	31.5	27.7	25.4	20.8%	28.36%	23.11%	12.58%	22.20%	▲
Satisfaction with SRSG's performance*, %	81.2	69.8	70.5	43.6	45.9	39.6	18.4	21.1%	33.66%	25.93%	17.79%	25.30%	▲
Satisfaction with PISG's (now Gov. Kosovo) performance*, %	81.2	48.7	43.3	27.2	35.9		49.9	55.7%	53.13%	55.83%	36.72%	29.30%	▼
Satisfaction with Assembly's performance*, %	73.7	59.0	45.4	25.6	31.9	36.7	46.0	49.0%	53.18%	46.37%	33.34%	34.10%	◀▶
Satisfaction with KFOR's performance*, %	81.0	84.3	81.0	77.5	81.8	83.7	84.2	86.9%	72.88%	71.90%	77.63%	69.60%	▼
Satisfaction with KPS performance*, %	86.9	84.5	81.8	72.5	79.3	78.6	80.0	80.9%	71.14%	70.96%	74.86%	74.30%	◀▶
Feelings of insecurity ("Somewhat unsafe" or "very unsafe" while outdoors)	38.1	36.7	35.5	38.6	22.6*	55.25*	21.2	18.3	26.00%	17.87%	27.64%	29.90%	▲

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

### Sources:

- a) UNDP, Early Warning Report March 2005, UNDP, Prishtinë/Priština, op. cit.
- b) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Sep 2005.
- c) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Jun 2006
- d) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Dec 2006
- e) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Jun 2007
- f) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Dec 2007
- g) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Sep 2008
- o) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Nov 2008
- p) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Jun 2009
- q) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Sep 2009
- r) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Jan 2010
- s) UNDP, Opinion Poll: Apr 2010

## List of Acronyms

CPI	Consumer Price Index
EU	European Union
EWR	Early Warning Report
EWS	Early Warning System
EULEX	EU Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo
ICO	International Civilian Office
IMF	International Monetary Fund
KEK	Korporata Energjetike e Kosovës (Energy Corporation of Kosovo)
KFOR	Kosovo Force
KPC	Kosovo Protection Corps
KP	Kosovo Police
KSF	Kosovo Security Force
RTK	Radio Televizioni i Kosovës (Public TV Broadcaster of Kosovo)
SEE	South-East Europe
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary General
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

## Foreword

This is the twenty-eighth Early Warning Report (EWR #28), a series that commenced in August 2002. The project continues to enjoy the sponsorship of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that shares the cost of the EWR. This report covers the period from April-June 2010 and is based on an opinion poll conducted across Kosovo in April 2010. 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 Reports is that it draws from the input and insights of a diverse pool of analysts and professionals that discuss the report's findings in a Focus Group meetings. The key discussion points of the Focus Group meeting, however, have been summarized in a special chapter at the end of the report.

Just like previous reports, the EWR #28 includes four main chapters: political and institutional stability, the socio-economic situation, interethnic relations, and personal and public security. In addition, the present report also includes a special chapter on the Kosovo environment. The analysis of these issues is based on data from a public opinion survey carried out by UBO Consulting in April 2010. The EWS surveys measure the perceptions of Kosovo citizens on the main issues that preoccupy Kosovan society. Some important highlights are as follows:

- This is the twenty-eighth Early Warning Report (EWR #28), a series that commenced in August 2002. The project continues to enjoy the sponsorship of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) that shares the cost of the EWR. This report covers the period from April-June 2010 and is based on an opinion poll conducted across Kosovo in April 2010. 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 Reports is that it draws from the input and insights of a diverse pool of analysts and professionals that discuss the report's findings in a Focus Group meetings. The key discussion points of the Focus Group meeting, however, have been summarized in a special chapter at the end of the report.

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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 Government of Kosovo and local leadership as well as development actors, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the International Civilian Office (ICO), EULEX, and the International Community in general. All conclusions and proposed recommendations presented in this report are a result of several rounds of discussions with professionals from diverse areas, backgrounds, and institutional settings.

We remain confident that the set of analyses presented in EWR #28 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.

Parviz Fartash  
UNDP Kosovo Director  
June 2010

## Executive Summary

- The satisfaction level with the governing institutions of Kosovo has seen either a small decrease or no significant change as compared to the January 2010 reporting period.
- The April 2010 poll results show that approximately 29% of survey respondents were satisfied with the work of the Government of Kosovo, a drop of some 7 percentage points since January 2010.
- Satisfaction with the work of KFOR decreased by some 9 percentage points since January 2010, currently standing at 69%. Satisfaction with the Kosovo Police (KPS) has seen no significant change since January 2010, and stands now at 75%. Both KFOR and the Kosovo Police, however, continue to be the top two institutions with the highest approval rankings.
- Satisfaction with the work of the Kosovo Assembly has seen no significant change since January 2010, now standing at 33%. In addition, satisfaction with the work of UNMIK has, interestingly enough, increased to 22%, after having reached an all-time record low level of only 12% in January 2010.
- The decreasing trend of satisfaction with the work of EULEX has changed direction according to the April 2010 poll. According to the April 2010 poll results, EULEX approval ratings have slightly increased to 33% as opposed to 30% in January 2010.
- Compared to the January 2010 poll, the current poll shows a decrease of 3 percentage points in the political pessimism of respondents, standing now at 38%. On the other hand, a 9 percentage point increase is also observed in the respondents' willingness to protest for political reasons, standing now at 55%.
- The respondents' willingness to protest for economic reasons has seen no significant changes since January 2010, now standing at 62%, while there has been a decrease of 5 percentage points in the respondents' economic pessimism indicator since January 2010, standing now at 56%.
- Similar to the previous three polls, the April 2010 poll results show that, when asked about the circumstances that threaten Kosovo's stability, unemployment and poverty were cited by the majority of respondents, regardless of ethnicity, as the main factors.
- Similar to previous polls since October 2008, the April 2010 poll results show that unemployment (45%) and poverty (28%) are the first two paramount problems that Kosovo faces. Corruption (7%) and social problems (4%) are the concerns following the first two.
- Only about 16% of K-Albanians, 30% of K-Serbs and 16% of other minorities stated that they do not feel anxious or worried. These numbers were 17%, 20% and 26% respectively according to the January 2010 poll, which points out a rather positive change for K-Serbs, with more respondents not feeling anxious or worried in general.
- The April 2010 poll shows that the portion of K-Serbs willing to work with K-Albanians has dramatically decreased to an all-time low of only 3% since September 2009 after having experienced a substantial increase during the period of June to September 2009. As for K-Albanians, the indicator has also decreased to 37% from 46% in January 2010 of K-Albanians willing to work with K-Serbs.

## 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 crisis prevention policies. Early Warning Reports are produced quarterly. The project is co-funded by USAID and UNDP. This Fact sheet is based on statistical analysis of an opinion poll conducted by UBO Consulting during the first part of April 2010.

The survey was based on face-to-face interviews, and included 1,291 respondents: 833 K-Albanians, 230 K-Serbs, and 228 respondents from other minorities. The sample was selected through 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 Kosovo 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

The satisfaction level with governing institutions of Kosovo has seen either a small decrease or no significant change since the January 2010 reporting period. In terms of satisfaction with the work of international organizations in Kosovo, the April 2010 poll shows an increase in the approval ratings of SRSG and UNMIK.

The April 2010 poll results show that approximately 29% of survey respondents are satisfied with the work of the Government of Kosovo, a drop of some 7 percentage points

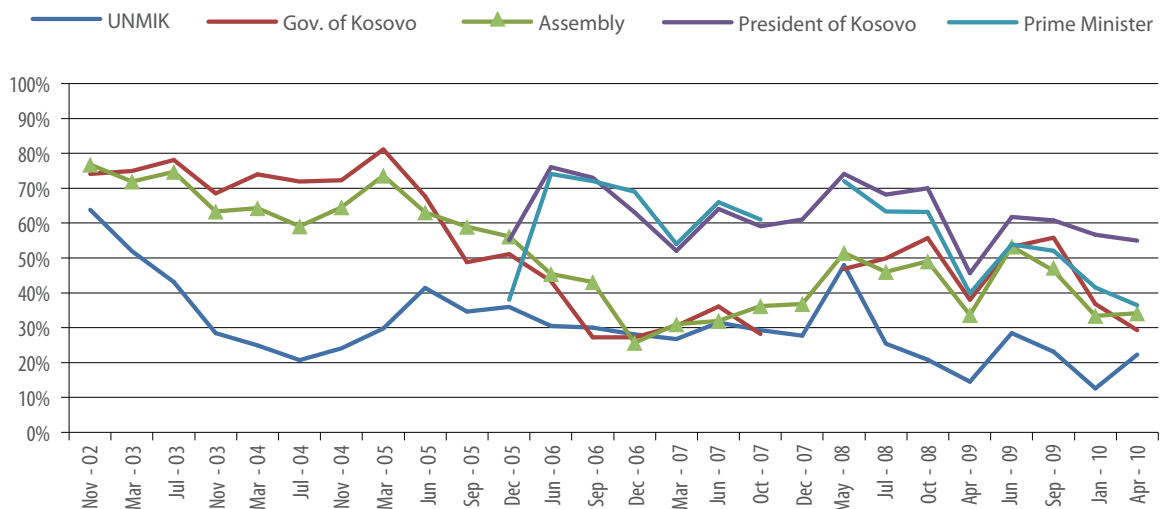
since January 2010. Satisfaction with the work of the Kosovo Assembly has seen no significant change since January 2010, now standing at 33%.

In addition, satisfaction with the work of UNMIK has, interestingly enough, increased to 22%, after having reached an all-time record low level of only 12% in January 2010. The Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) level of satisfaction has, just like that of UNMIK, increased to 26% in April 2010, compared to 18% in January 2010.

Satisfaction with the work of KFOR decreased by some 9 percentage points since January 2010, currently standing at 69%. Satisfaction with the Kosovo Police (KPS) has seen no significant change since January 2010, and stands now at 75%. Both KFOR and the Kosovo Police, however, continue to be the top two institutions with the highest approval rankings.

The decreasing trend of satisfaction with the work of EULEX has changed direction according to the April 2010 poll. According to the April 2010 poll results, EULEX approval ratings have slightly increased to 33% as opposed to 30% in January 2010 (Figure 1.1).

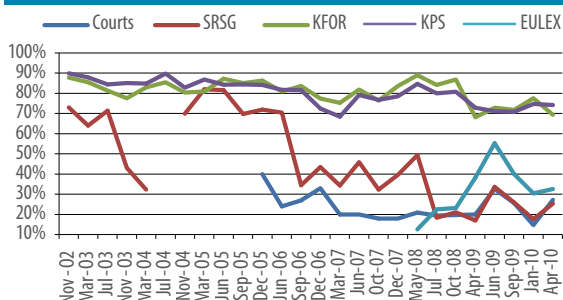
Figure 1.1 (Section 1): Satisfaction with the work of institutions in Kosovo



Both the President and the Prime Minister have seen a decrease in the level of respondents' satisfaction with their work between the January 2010 and April 2010 reporting periods, with the latter's being slightly more significant. The satisfaction level for the President currently stand at 55% (as opposed to 58% in January 2010), while the satisfaction level for the Prime Minister currently stand at only 36% (as opposed to 42% in January 2010).

Kosovo courts continue to be the institutions that people are least satisfied with, despite an important increase observed between January and April 2009. The current poll records a 13-percentage point increase in satisfaction with the work of Courts since January 2010.

Figure 1.1 (Section 2): Satisfaction with the work of institutions in Kosovo



### Kosovo's Political Direction

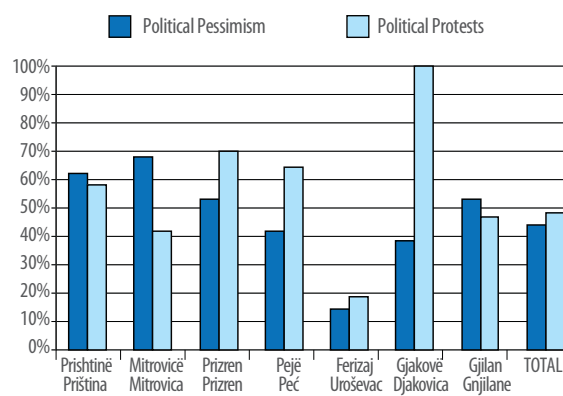
Compared to the January 2010 poll, the current poll shows a decrease of 3 percentage points in the political pessimism of respondents, standing now at 38%. On the other hand, a 9 percentage point increase is observed in the respondents' willingness to protest for political reasons, standing now at 55%.

The degrees of political pessimism and willingness to protest for political reasons continue to vary across Kosovo (Figures 1.3). In the April 2010 poll, respondents from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica region were in the first place for the highest level of political pessimism (about 58%), followed by the Gjilan/Gnjilane region (about 56%), and Prishtinë/Priština (53%).

According to the April 2010 poll, the Ferizaj/Uroševac region is the region with the lowest level of political pessimism (about 12%).

Gjakovë/Djakovica at almost 100% keeps first place for willingness to protest for political reasons. According to the April 2010 poll, however, runner-ups to Gjakovë/Djakovica as far as the willingness to protest for political reasons are Prizren (61%), and Peja/Peć (at about 54%). Ferizaj/Uroševac (19%) has the lowest level of willingness to protests for political reasons.

Figure 1.2: Level of political pessimism and political protests by region



### Public Services

Education continues to be the public service with highest number of satisfied respondents. According to the April 2010 poll results, Education (57%), followed by the Water Supply (53%), and Public TV (46%) represent public services with the highest number of satisfied people.

Since November 2007, Electricity continues to remain the lowest ranked public service, specifically the public service that people are least satisfied with. The respondents' satisfaction with electricity supply (Kosovo Electrical Corporation, KEC) currently stands at only 20%.

Figure 1.3: Satisfaction with public services

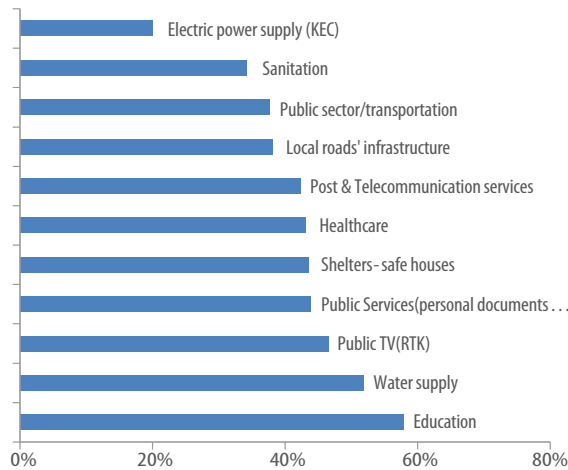
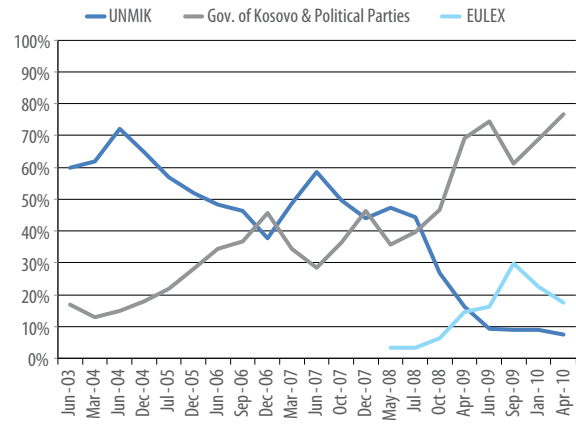


Figure 1.4: Trend of respondents holding the Government of Kosovo or UNMIK responsible for Kosovo's political situation



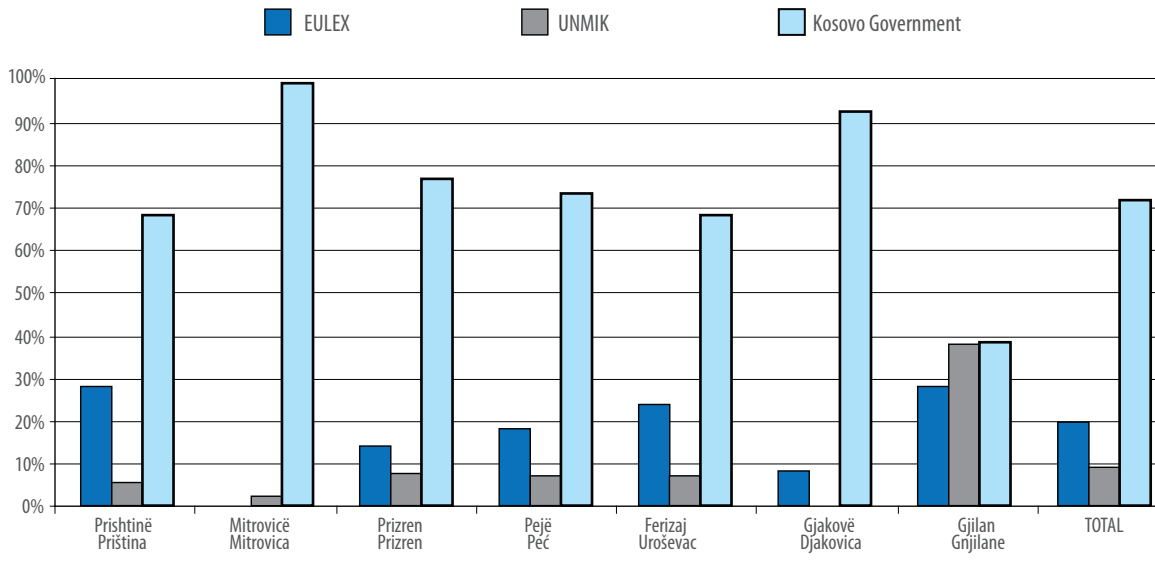
## II. Responsibility for Kosovo's Political Situation

### Who is responsible?

The April 2010 poll results, just like other polls since July 2008, show that UNMIK is no longer perceived as the most responsible entity for the Kosovo's political situation. According to the April 2010 poll results, only 7% (no significant change since June 2009) of respondents hold UNMIK responsible for the political situation, while around 77% attribute this responsibility to the Government of Kosovo and political parties (an increase of some 8 percentage points since January 2010). About 18% of respondents, however, assign this responsibility to EULEX—a decrease of some 5 percentage points since January 2010 (Figure 1.5).

Even when the data is analysed based on a regional break-down, the April 2010 poll results show that a greater number of Kosovans continue to hold the Government of Kosovo more responsible for Kosovo's political situation as opposed to UNMIK or EULEX, across all of Kosovo's main regions (Figure 1.5).

Figure 1.5: Attribution of political responsibility by region

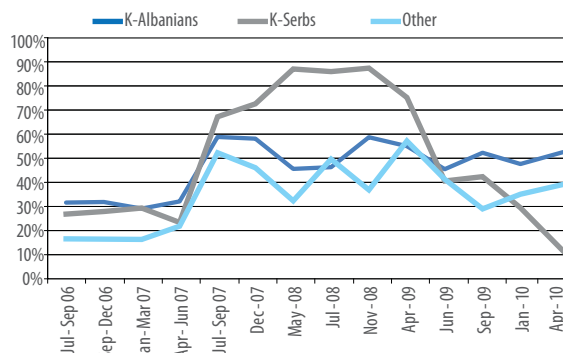


### Protesting for political reasons

The April 2010 poll results show a small increase of some 4 percentage points in the K-Albanian respondents' willingness to protest for political reasons as compared to the January 2010 poll results. The poll results also show a rather insignificant increase of some 2 percentage points in the Other minority respondents' willingness to protest for political reasons, while at the same time they show a decrease of some 15 percentage points in the willingness of K-Serbs to protest for political reasons.

Currently, some 53% of K-Albanians, 12% of K-Serbs, and 40% of Other minority respondents would protest for political reasons (Figure 1.6). Since June 2009, K-Albanians have been the group with the highest willingness to protest for political reasons.

Figure 1.6: Willingness to protest for political reasons by ethnicity



### III. Post-Status Kosovo

When people were asked about factors that are directly involved in threatening Kosovo's stability, unemployment and poverty were overwhelmingly quoted by the vast majority of K-Albanians (68%) and Others (72%) and almost half of K-Serbs (48%) as the main factors threatening Kosovo's stability (Table 1.1.).

Only less than 1% and about 1% of all Kosovans, according to the April 2010 poll results, consider religious radicalism and political radicalism, respectively, to be threatening problems to Kosovo's stability.

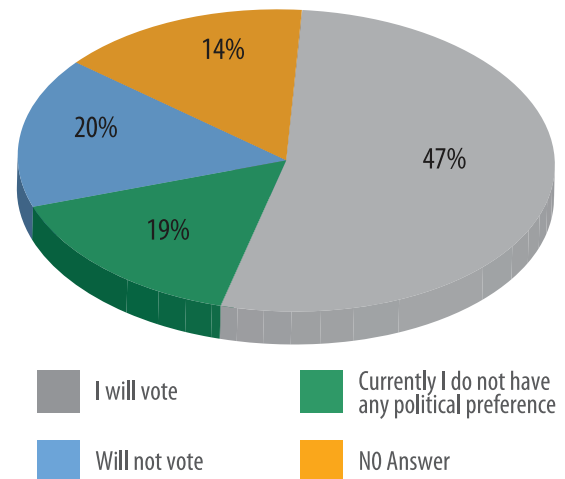
*Table 1.1: Opinion on circumstances that threaten the stability of Kosovo*

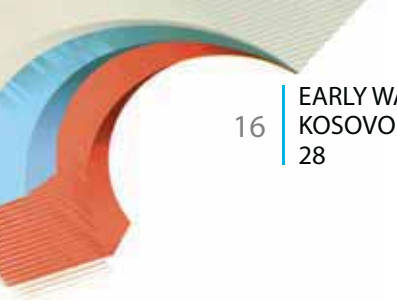
	K-Albanian	K-Serb	Others	Total Weighted
Further aggravation of interethnic relations	1.9%	20.8%	1.3%	3.0%
Unemployment and poverty	67.9%	48.1%	72.0%	66.9%
Deterioration of relations with neighbouring countries	1.9%	2.6%	4.0%	2.1%
Deterioration of relation with international community	2.3%	1.3%	9.3%	2.6%
Religious Radicalism	.3%	5.2%	1.3%	.6%
Political Radicalism	.6%	5.2%	2.7%	1.0%
Lack of rule of law	8.0%	10.4%	.0%	7.7%
Corruption and mismanagement	15.2%	3.9%	5.3%	14.0%
	1.2%	2.6%	1.3%	1.3%
DK/NA	.7%	0%	2.7%	.8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Insofar as political preferences and willingness to vote are concerned, the April 2010 poll results show that about 19% (as opposed to 16% in January 2010) of Kosovans do not have any political preferences (i.e. no party allegiance) and another 20% (as opposed to 16% in January 2010) would not vote in case new elections would be held.

On the other hand, some 47% (as opposed to 53% in January 2010) of Kosovans stated that they will vote if new elections would be held and another 14% stated that they do not know yet what their decision will be about voting (Figure 1.7).

*Figure 1.7: Political preferences and readiness to vote*







Even when broken down by gender, the poll results again show that unemployment and poverty are the leading paramount problems identified by both men and women. Half of female respondents see unemployment as the paramount problem facing Kosovo along with a quarter who see poverty as the paramount problem. On the other hand, over 41% of men see unemployment as the paramount problem in Kosovo along with some one-third of them who see poverty as such.

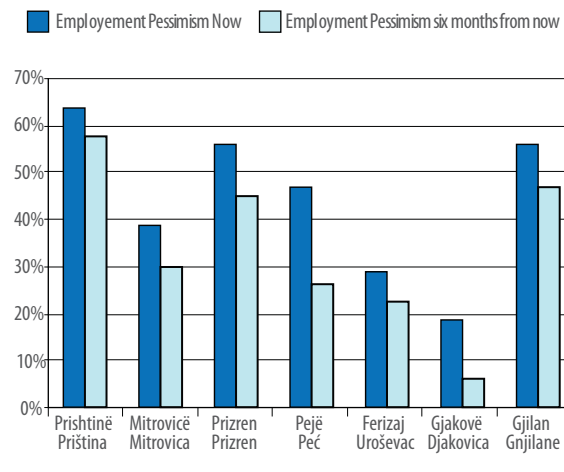
*Table 2.2: The paramount problem facing Kosovo (by gender)*

	SEX		Total
	Male	Female	
Road infrastructure	1.7%	.9%	1.3%
Electric energy supply	2.0%	1.6%	1.8%
Urban-space problems(wild building)	.3%	.5%	.4%
Environment pollution	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%
Poverty	31.8%	25.3%	28.6%
Prizes	1.4%	.6%	1.0%
Healthcare services	.3%	.9%	.6%
Public and personal security	1.2%	.9%	1.1%
Education	2.0%	2.2%	2.1%
Interethnic relations	1.2%	.8%	1.0%
Unemployment	41.2%	49.4%	45.2%
Undesirable final status outcome	.8%	1.3%	1.0%
Social problems (pensions, invalids, orphans etc.)	1.8%	2.8%	2.3%
The fate of missing persons	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%
Organized crime	.8%	1.9%	1.3%
Unsolved killings and murders	.5%	.8%	.6%
Corruption	7.4%	5.2%	6.3%
Unsocial behaviour (prostitution, drug, alcoholism, trafficking)	1.1%	.9%	1.0%
NA	1.5%	.8%	1.2%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

In general, Kosovans seems to be more optimistic about the future than the current situation as far as employment opportunities are concerned. Analysed regionally, Prishtinë/Priština is the region with the highest current rate of pessimism about employment opportunities (65%), followed by Prizren (58%) and Gjilan/Gnjilane (57%). Furthermore, these

two regions, Prishtinë/Priština and Gjilan/Gnjilane, also score highest on the rate of future pessimism about employment opportunities (at 57% and 48%, respectively).

*Figure 2.1: Employment Pessimism and Optimism*



According to the April 2010 poll results, the majority of Kosovans of all ethnicities (70%) have experienced neither a loss nor a gain in employment over the last six months. It should be noted however, that some 15% of K-Albanians, 5% of K-Serbs, and 9% of Other minorities experienced a job gain in the last six months, while some 5% of K-Albanians, 8% of K-Serbs, and 4% of Other minorities experienced a job loss in the last six months.

Compared to all previous polls of July 2008, the current poll results show no significant changes in the employment status of respondents.

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

	Ethnicity grouped three			Total Weighted
	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Others	
Get a Job	15.0%	5.3%	9.3%	14.1%
Lose a Job	5.0%	7.9%	4.0%	5.2%
Both	5.7%	6.6%	6.7%	5.8%
Neither	69.3%	76.3%	80.0%	70.3%
Don't know	1.9%	2.6%	.0%	1.8%
Does not answer	3.0%	1.3%	.0%	2.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

As far as business activity is concerned in the last six months, the overwhelming majority of Kosovans of all ethnicities (83%) have neither started nor closed a business. Only about 4% of K-Albanians, 5% of K-Serbs, and 3% of Other minorities stated that they have started a new business in the period of last six months, while some 2% of K-Albanians, 1% of K-Serbs, and 3% of Other minorities closed a business within this reporting period.

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

	Ethnicity grouped three			Total Weighted
	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Others	
Start a business [shop, factory,	3.8%	5.3%	2.7%	3.8%
Close a business	2.4%	1.3%	2.7%	2.4%
Both	3.8%	5.3%	4.0%	3.9%
Neither	82.8%	84.0%	89.3%	83.2%
Don't know	2.4%	2.7%	1.3%	2.4%
Does not answer	4.7%	1.3%	0%	4.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

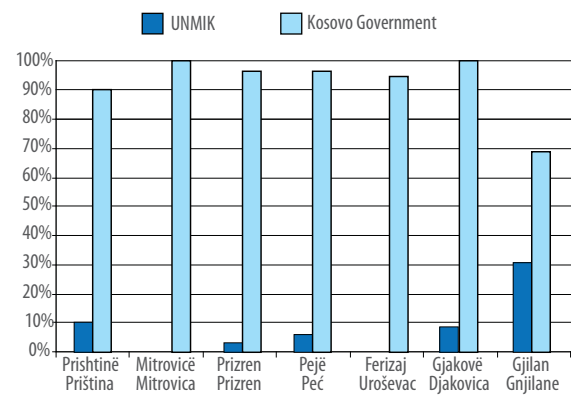
## II. Responsibility for the Economic Situation and Potential for Protests due to Economic Reasons

In terms of perceptions of responsibility for the economic situation in Kosovo, the overwhelming majority of respondents (93% as opposed to 92% in January 2010) believe that the Government of Kosovo is most responsible. Attribution of responsibility to the Government of Kosovo has not changed significantly since January 2010.

The January 2010 poll results show that the number of respondents holding UNMIK most responsible for Kosovo's economic situation has decreased to only 7%.

The Government of Kosovo – even across regions – is still thought to be most entity in terms of the economic conditions of Kosovo (Figure 2.2).

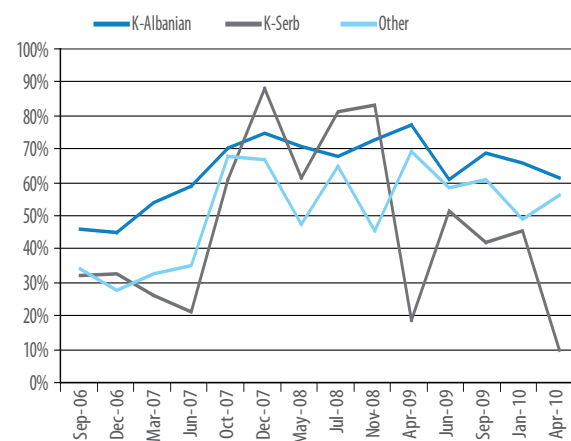
**Figure 2.2: Responsibility for the economic situation**



As has been repeatedly indicated by previous Early Warning Reports, Kosovans' willingness to protest for economic reasons remains relatively high. However, the numbers have decreased slightly for K-Albanians; decreased significantly for K-Serbs; and increased for Other minority respondents in comparison to the January 2010 poll.

According to the April 2010 poll results, about 59% of Kosovans are willing to protest for economic reasons, which is significantly higher than their willingness to protest for political reasons (about 49%). About 10% (as opposed to 47% in January 2010) of K-Serbs and 57% (as opposed to 49% in January 2010) of Other minority respondents would also protest for economic reasons along with some 63% of K-Albanians (as opposed to 66% in January 2010) (Figure 2.3).

**Figure 2.3: Willingness to protest for economic reasons**



When broken down by gender, the poll results show that more men than women, on average, are willing to protest for economic reasons (66% vs. 52%). Overall, however, the gender-based analysis still reveals that 59% of respondents are willing to protest for economic reasons.

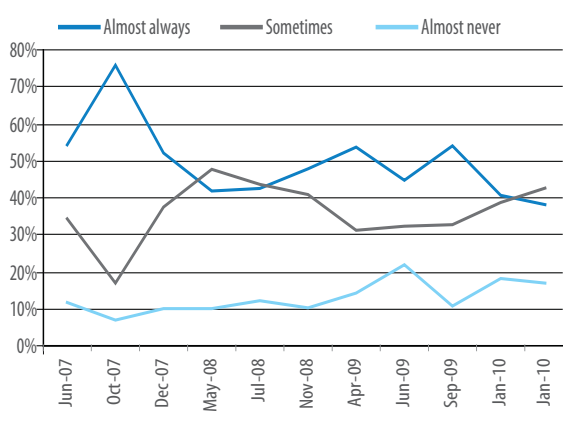
**Table 2.5: Willingness to protest for economic reasons, by gender**

	Ethnicity grouped three		
	Male	Female	Total
Yes	65.9%	52.0%	59.0%
No	24.7%	39.8%	32.1%
Does not answer	9.4%	8.3%	8.8%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

As shown at the beginning of this chapter, lack of economic prosperity continues to be one of the major problems facing Kosovo today. The April 2010 poll, just like the previous polls since July 2008, shows that this claim is further backed by the fact that the vast majority of Kosovans (some 70%) who feel worried or anxious during the day do so because of economic reasons.

About 18% (same as in January 2010) of all Kosovans reported that they do not feel worried or anxious during the day, while about 43% reported to sometimes feel worried or anxious during the day, and some 38% (as opposed to 38% and 40%, respectively, in January 2010) feeling worried or anxious during the day almost always (Figure 2.4).

**Figure 2.4: Feeling worried or anxious**



Gender-based analysis of the poll data reveal that more men than women feel worried or anxious almost always (12% vs. 7.5%), and more women than men feel worried or anxious almost never (7% vs. 3.5%).

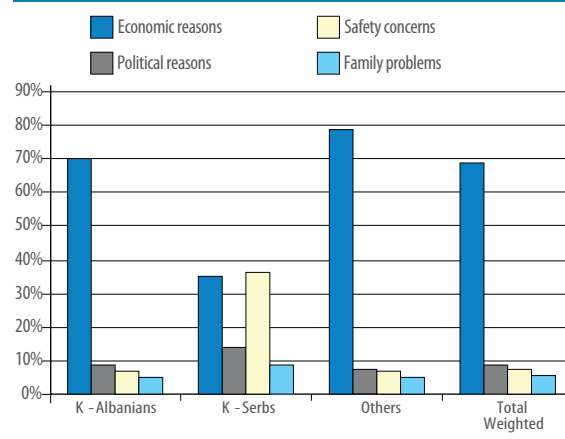
**Table 2.6: Feeling worried or anxious, by gender**

	SEX		
	Male	Female	Total
Almost always	12.1%	7.5%	9.8%
Usually	29.7%	26.6%	28.2%
Sometimes	40.3%	44.8%	42.5%
Not usually	12.4%	12.3%	12.4%
Almost never	3.5%	6.6%	5.0%
Don't know	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Does not answer	.9%	1.1%	1.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The April 2010 poll results, just like the previous polls since May 2008, confirm that the main sources of worry 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 both safety and the economic situation (tied) (Figure 2.5).

For some 71% of K-Albanians and 79% of Other minority respondents the main reason for their anxiety is the economic situation, while some 35% of K-Serb respondents identified safety concerns tied with the economic situation as the main reasons for their anxiety.

**Figure 2.5: Reasons for feeling worried or anxious**



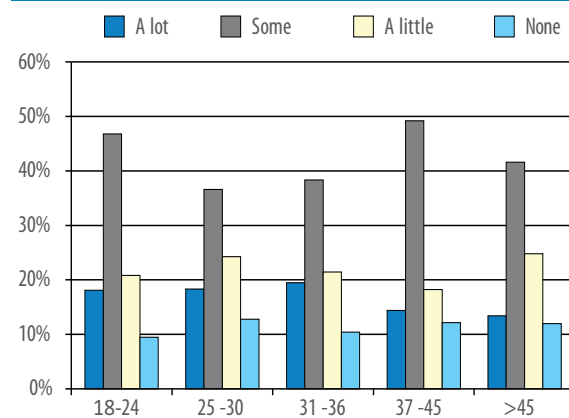
In terms of gender-based analysis, economic and political reasons prevail as key factors that make more men worried or anxious than women, whereas safety concerns and family problems prevail as key factors that make more women than men worried or anxious during the day (Table 2.7).

*Table 2.7: Reasons for feeling worried or anxious, by gender*

	SEX		Total
	Male	Female	
Economic reasons	74.1%	64.2%	69.3%
Political reasons	9.1%	7.2%	8.1%
Safety concerns	6.8%	9.3%	8.0%
Family problems	4.6%	7.8%	6.1%
Husband and Wife problems		.4%	.2%
Don't know	3.5%	7.2%	5.3%
Does not answer	1.8%	4.0%	2.9%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Moreover, Figure 2.6 shows that Kosovans in general believe that they can influence the direction of their life only to some extent. While the majority of respondents of each age group feel this way, about 17% of Kosovans (as opposed to 25% as in January 2010) across all age groups that believe they can influence the direction of their lives a lot.

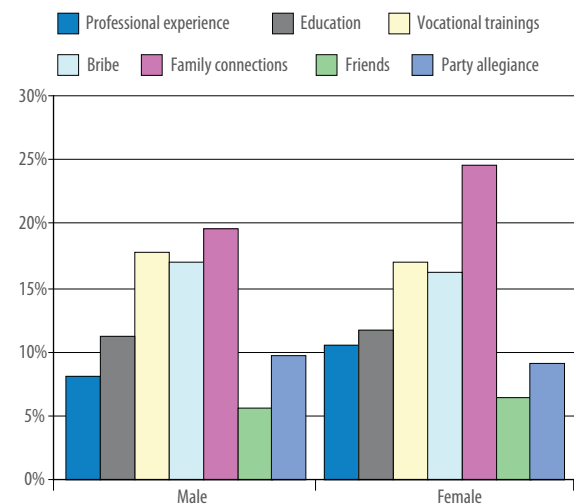
*Figure 2.6: To what extent do you believe you can influence the direction of your life?*

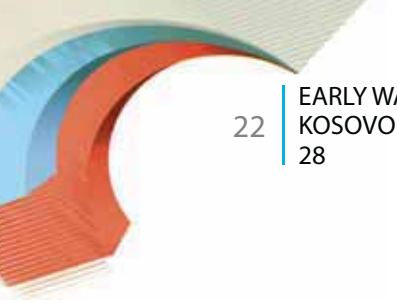


As to what is most important for a Kosovan to get a job in the public sector, things seem to have slightly changed according to the April 2010 poll results.

According to all previous polls between May 2008, when this question was first included in the survey, and June 2009, respondents regardless of their gender generally believed that family connections were the most important factor to find a job in the public sector. Furthermore, the September 2009 poll results showed that, respondents believed bribes (24%) followed by family connections (21%) were the most important factors to gaining employment in the public sector. The January 2010 poll results showed, however, that professional experience was the most important factor in getting a job in the public sector (26%), followed by bribes (25%). The current poll though shows again that family connections (22%) followed by vocational trainings (17%) are considered to be the most important factors in getting a job in the public sector (Figure 2.7). It is important to note that among females the proportion of those who regard family connections as important to get employment is much higher than among males.

*Figure 2.7: What is the most important factor to get employed in the public sector?*





## Chapter 3

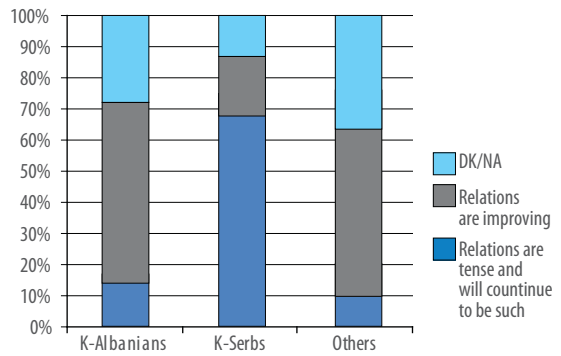
### INTERETHNIC RELATIONS

#### I. Main Trends

As with previous polls since May 2008, the April 2010 poll results show that the majority of K-Albanian respondents and Other minority respondents continue to believe that interethnic relations are improving (56% and 53%, respectively), while some 20% of K-Serbs believe the same (Figure 3.1).

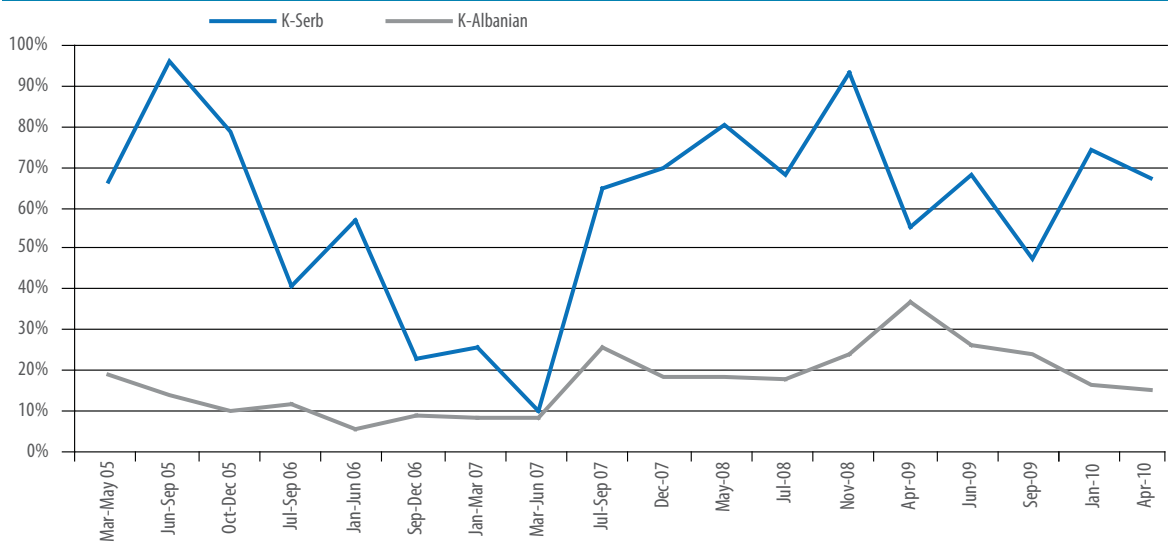
It is promising that the portion of K-Serbs who believe that interethnic relations are improving increased by some 8 percentage points since January 2010.

Figure 3.1: Interethnic relations between K-Serbs and K-Albanians



The April 2010 poll results show slight decreases in both K-Albanians and K-Serbs beliefs that interethnic relations are tense and not improving. This indicator has dropped by some 9 percentage points since January 2010, whereas for K-Albanians the same has dropped by some 4 percentage points.

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



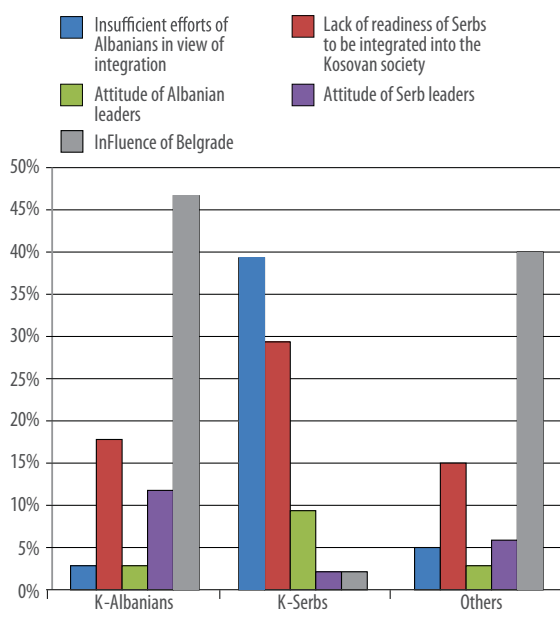


The January 2010 poll results, just like previous polls, confirm that the reasons given for the lack of improvement of tense interethnic relations, especially between the K-Albanians and K-Serbs, remain different depending on ethnicity (Figure 3.3).

Almost half of K-Albanians believe that the main factor for tense K-Serb – K-Albanian relations is the influence of Belgrade (46%), followed by lack of readiness of K-Serbs to be integrated in Kosovo society (16%). Other minorities have a similar opinion to K-Albanians, where some 40% think that influence of Belgrade, followed by some 15% citing the lack of readiness of K-Serbs to be integrated in Kosovo society as key factors for tense K-Serb – K-Albanian relations.

On the other hand, K-Serbs believe that the major factors for tense relations with K-Albanians are the insufficient efforts on the part of K-Albanians to better foster interethnic integration (38%), followed by the lack of readiness of K-Serbs to be integrated in Kosovo society (29%).

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



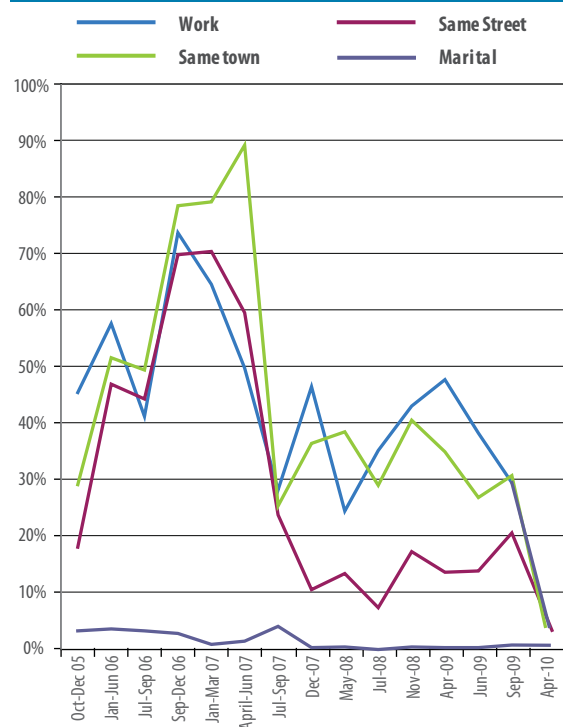
## II. Interethnic Contacts and Coexistence

Another important indicator of interethnic relations is the willingness of K-Serbs to work and live together with K-Albanians. As can be seen from Figure 3.4, there has been an important decrease, since the January 2010 reporting period, in the readiness of K-Serbs to work with K-Albanians, live in the same town and on the same street with K-Albanians.

Only 6% of K-Serbs (as opposed to 29% in January 2010) would agree to work with K-Albanians. About 6% (as opposed to 31% in January 2010) of K-Serbs would agree to live in the same town with K-Albanians, followed by 5% (as opposed to 21% in January 2010) who would agree to live on the same street with K-Albanians.

As far as interethnic marriages are concerned, no K-Serbs show willingness to marry K-Albanians.

Figure 3.4: K-Serbs that would agree to live and work with K-Albanians

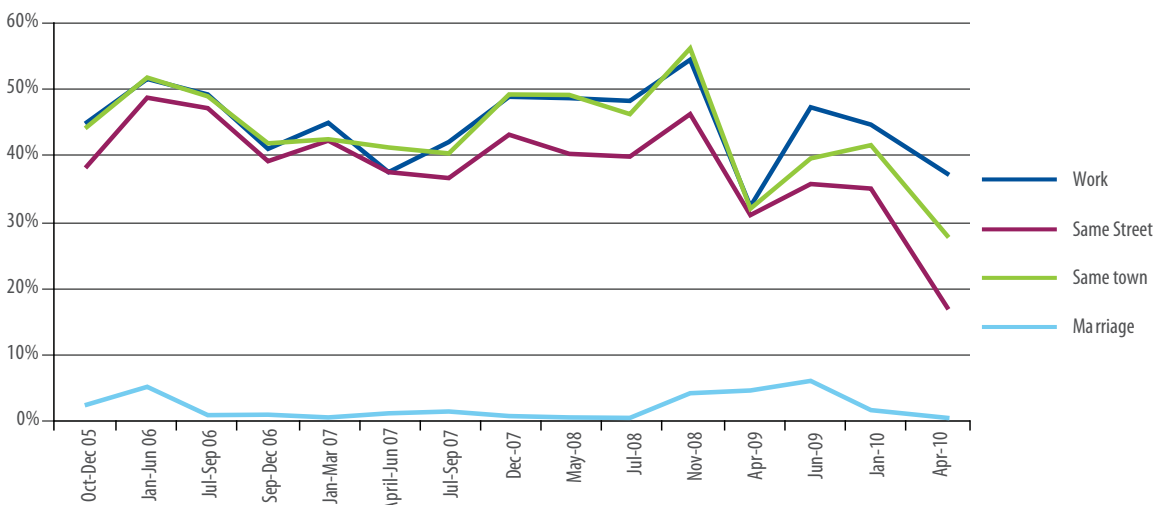


By the same token, the attitude of K-Albanians towards either living in the same town or on the same street or working with K-Serbs has seen negative changes too.

According to the April 2010 poll results, some 36% (as opposed to 45% in January 2010) of K-Albanians would agree to work with K-Serbs,

while some 29% (as opposed to 42% in January 2010) of them would agree to live in the same town with K-Serbs, and some 25% (as opposed to 35% in January 2010) would agree to live on the same street with K-Serbs. Almost no K-Albanian though would marry K-Serbs (Figure 3.5).

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

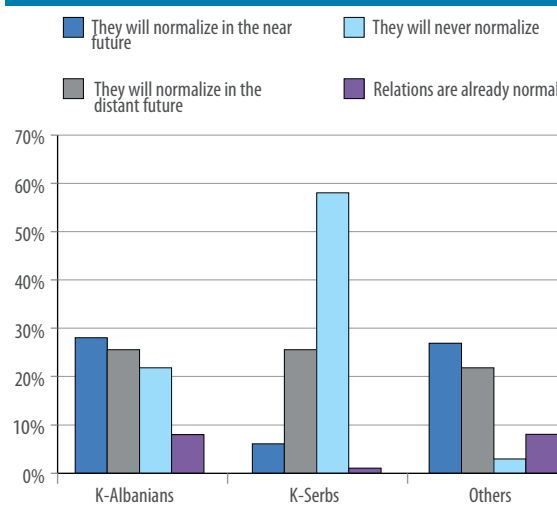


As to the prospects of having interethnic relations normalize, the April 2010 poll results once again show that K-Serbs continue to be the most pessimistic among all ethnicities in Kosovo.

About 58% of K-Serbs (as opposed to 43% in January 2010) believe that interethnic relations between K-Serbs and K-Albanians will never normalize. Of the same opinion are some 20% of K-Albanians (no significant change since January 2010) and some 5% of Other minorities (as opposed to 16% in January 2010).

The most optimistic – those who believe that relations will normalize in the near future – are K-Albanians (29%) followed by Others (28%), and K-Serbs with 5% (Figure 3.6).

Figure 3.6: Prognosis on when interethnic relations will normalize

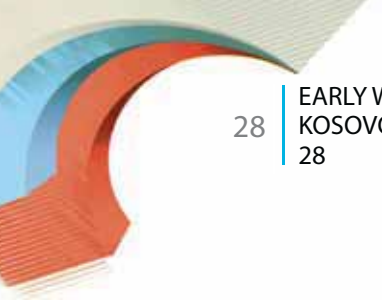


Just like the previous polls since May 2008, the April 2010 poll shows that only 2% of K-Serbs believe that interethnic relations are already normal while 5% of K-Albanians and 9% of Other minorities believe this to be true.

Not much difference of opinion is observed when the poll data is analysed based on gender. The only significant difference, however, is that more men than women (28% vs. 21%) believe that interethnic relations will normalize in the distant future (Table 3.3).

*Table 3.3: Prognosis on when interethnic relations will normalize, by gender*

	SEX		
	Male	Female	Total
They will normalize in the near future	26.5%	28.6%	27.5%
They will normalize in the distant future	28.0%	20.9%	24.6%
They will never normalize	23.9%	21.1%	22.6%
Relations are already normal	5.3%	4.8%	5.0%
dont know	12.7%	20.2%	16.2%
NA	3.7%	4.5%	4.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



## Chapter 4

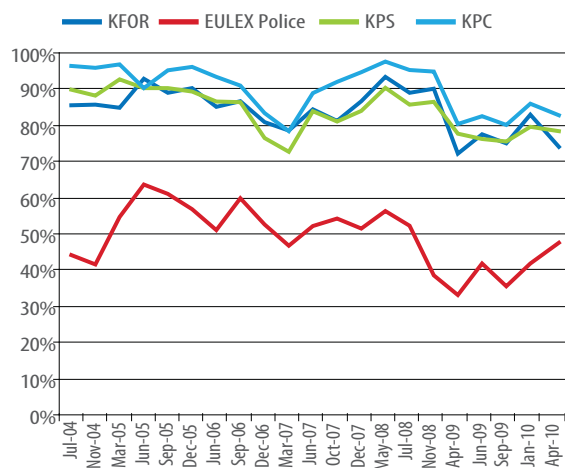
### PUBLIC AND PERSONAL SECURITY

#### I. Satisfaction with Security Institutions

Just as in all previous polls, K-Albanians continue to be highly satisfied with the work of security institutions in Kosovo. The April 2010 poll results show that satisfaction with security institutions such as KFOR and Kosovo Security Force (KSF) has slightly decreased since January 2010 (Figure 4.1).

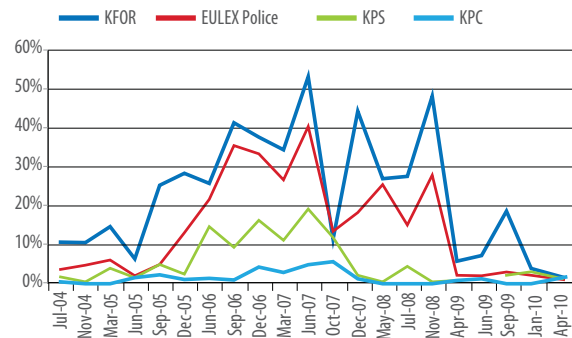
The satisfaction level with Kosovo Police (KPS) has seen no significant change, while that of EULEX Police has increased by some 7 percentage points since January 2010.

Figure 4.1: K-Albanians satisfaction with security institutions



Among K-Serbs, satisfaction with security institutions in Kosovo has not recuperated significantly since their major drops in November 2008 and April 2009. Indeed, satisfaction has plummeted further according to the April 2010 poll results (Figure 4.2).

Figure 4.2: K-Serbs satisfaction with security institutions



Similar to previous polls since May 2008, the current poll also shows that the majority of K-Albanians and Other minorities (except for K-Serbs) consider community-police relations to be good or very good (Table 4.1).

Compared to the January 2010 poll results, the April 2010 poll results show an increase of some 9 percentage points in the portion of K-Serbs considering the community-police relations to be good or very good, currently standing at only 16%, as opposed to 7% in January 2010, while 32% of them consider these relations to be bad or very bad (as opposed to 45% in January 2010).

Table 4.1: Assessment of community-police relations

	Ethnicity			Total Weighted
	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Others	
Very good	15.6%	8.0%	8.0%	14.2%
Good	61.7%	15.8%	69.3%	59.5%
Neither good nor bad	16.7%	38.2%	16.0%	17.9%
Bad	1.5%	17.1%	1.3%	2.4%
Very bad	.7%	14.5%	.0%	1.5%
DK	2.9%	7.9%	4.0%	3.2%
NA	1.0%	6.6%	1.3%	1.3%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Generally, the main reasons given for bad community-police relations is that the people do not trust the police (29%) followed by the perception that people do not want to cooperate with the police (23%), and that

perception that people feel the police is weak and incompetent (16%).

When K-Albanian respondents, who considered that community-police relations are bad or very bad, were asked about the reasons underlying their perceptions, some 27% of K-Albanians said that “people do not trust the police”, while some 23.5% said that “people do not want to cooperate with the police”. The third major reason given by K-Albanians (18%) for bad or very bad community-police relations was that “the people feel the police is weak and incompetent” (Table 4.2).

On the other hand, the three major reasons that K-Serbs give for this kind of relation are: people do not trust the police (36%), people feel that the police is corrupt and easy to bribe (23%), and people do not want to cooperate with the police (21%).

For Other minorities the first three major reasons given include: (1) people do not trust the police (29%) tied with (2) people do not want to cooperate with the police (29%), followed by (3) people feel the police is weak and incompetent (14%) (Table 4.2).

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

	Ethnicity grouped three			
	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Others	Total Weighted
People don't trust the police	27.2%	35.8%	28.6%	28.9%
People don't want to cooperate with the police	23.5%	20.8%	28.6%	23.2%
People feel the Police are weak and incompetent	18.0%	7.5%	14.3%	15.8%
The Police do not try to improve relations with the community	5.1%	3.8%		4.6%
People feel the Police are corrupt and easy to bribe	16.1%	22.6%	7.1%	16.9%
DK	1.8%	3.8%	14.3%	2.8%
NA	8.3%	5.7%	7.1%	7.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## II. Personal and Family Security

Respondents were asked to list what they see as the biggest threats to their family security and safety (Table 4.3). When analyzed based on ethnicity, the top three security threats for K-Albanian respondents, according to the April 2010 poll, include: (1) infectious diseases (23.5%); (2) organized crime/mafia (22%); and (3) thefts (18%).

K-Serbs identify the same threats as K-Albanians, including (1) infectious diseases (36.5%); (2) thefts (33%), and (3) murders (10%). As for the Other minority respondents, the top three threats include: thefts (23%), followed by a tie between robberies, murders, organized crime/mafia, and infectious diseases (15%).

Overall, the major threats to family security identified by Kosovans include: (1) infectious diseases (25.5%), (2) thefts (21%), and (3) organized crime/mafia (19%).

**Table 4.3: Threats to family security, by ethnicity**

	Ethnicity			
	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Others	Total Weighted
Robberies	6.5%	3.8%	15.4%	6.4%
Thefts	18.0%	32.7%	23.1%	20.9%
Kidnappings	3.2%	3.8%		3.2%
Murders	5.5%	9.6%	15.4%	6.7%
Traffic Accidents	3.2%	.0%	7.7%	2.8%
Organized Crime/Mafia	22.1%	7.7%	15.4%	19.1%
Home Accidents	2.8%	.0%		2.1%
Fires		.0%	.0%	.0%
Poverty	1.4%		.0%	1.1%
Infectious Diseases	23.5%	36.5%	15.4%	25.5%
Drugs	1.4%			1.1%
Other	.5%		.0%	.4%
DK/NA	12.0%	5.8%	7.7%	10.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

The April 2010 poll results show no significant change in the level of perception among K-Serbs regarding safety while outside on the street. This indicator now shows that about 10.5% of K-Serbs feel safe (very safe or somewhat safe) when outside.

As for K-Albanians, some 70% (as opposed to 66% in January 2010) feel very safe or somewhat safe, along with Other minorities out of whom some 64.5% (as opposed to 62% in January 2010) feel very safe or somewhat safe (Table 4.4).

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

	Ethnicity			Total Weighted
	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Others	
Very safe	14.5%		9.2%	13.4%
Somewhat safe	55.7%	10.5%	55.3%	53.0%
Somewhat unsafe	19.6%	56.6%	22.4%	21.9%
Very unsafe	6.7%	28.9%	6.6%	8.0%
NA	3.4%	3.9%	6.5%	3.7%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

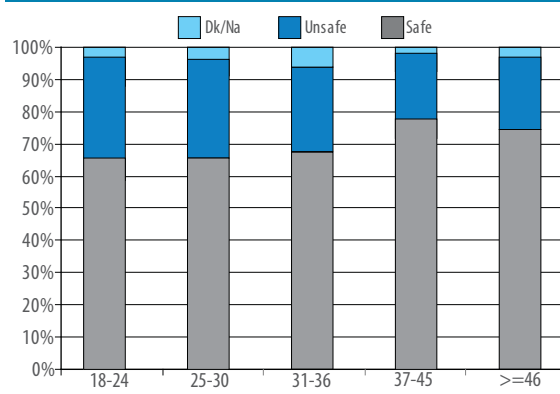
A gender-based analysis, however, shows that slightly more women than men feel very safe or somewhat safe (58.5% vs. 54.5%), while about 11% of either men or women feel very unsafe or somewhat unsafe while outside (Table 4.5).

**Table 4.5: Safety vs. crime and violence when outside, by gender**

	SEX		Total
	Male	Female	
Very safe	13.8%	13.0%	13.4%
Somewhat safe	50.7%	55.5%	53.0%
Somewhat unsafe	24.1%	19.5%	21.8%
Very unsafe	8.2%	7.8%	8.0%
Don't know	3.0%	3.3%	3.2%
No Answer	.3%	.9%	.6%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Among K-Albanians, it is hard to identify a trend of feeling of safety and its relation to age. The K-Albanian 18-24 years age group has the lowest percentage (65%) of feeling safe out in the street, whereas the group that feels safest is the 37-45 age group (77%).

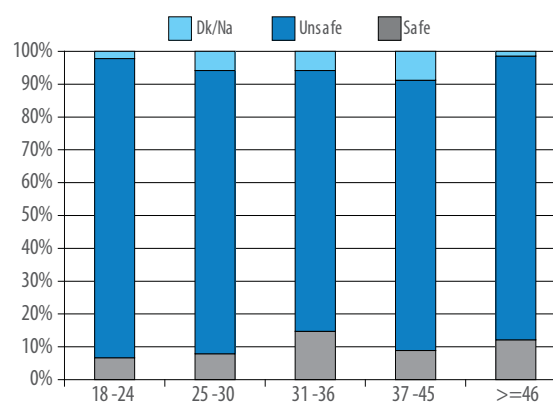
**Figure 4.3: Feeling safe out on the street for K-Albanians**



Just like with K-Albanians, in the case of K-Serbs it is also impossible to identify a trend of safety feeling according to age group (Figure 4.4).

The K-Serbs' age group with the lowest percentage of those feeling safe (6%) is the age group of 18-24 years. Whereas, the age group of people having 31-36 years has the highest percentage (15%) of those feeling safe.

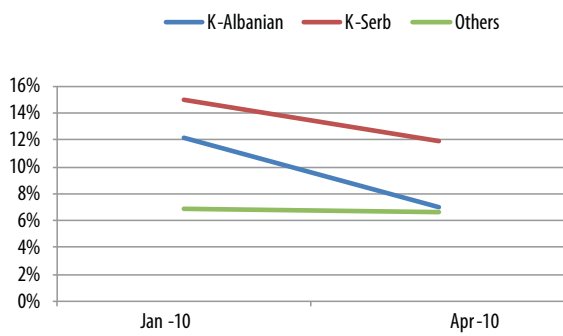
**Figure 4.4: Feeling safe out on the street for K-Serbs**



### III. Human Rights and Discrimination

According to the current poll, when asked about whether they were in a situation in which they felt discriminated against in the last six months, the overwhelming majority of respondents, regardless of ethnicity, responded negatively. Only about 7% of K-Albanians, 12% of K-Serbs, and 7% of Other minority respondents said that they faced a situation in which they felt discriminated against (Figure 4.5).

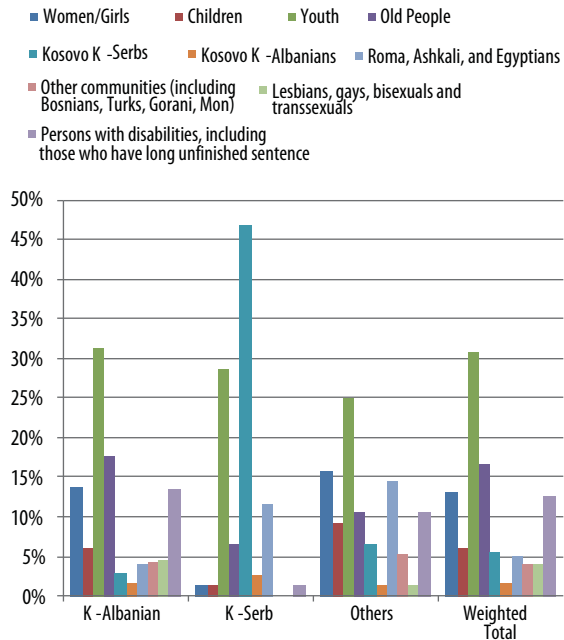
Figure 4.5: Perceptions of discrimination in the last six months



In general, the top three groups perceived by respondents as subject to discrimination include youth, elderly, and women.

While K-Albanians side with the same three groups identified above, K-Serbs identify themselves, youth, and RAE as groups most vulnerable to discrimination. Other minority respondents identify youth, women, and RAE as the top three groups subject to discrimination.

Figure 4.6: Groups subject to discrimination



As to what institution or entity respondents consider the most responsible for the perceived discrimination against them, overall the top three institutions selected by respondents (regardless of ethnicity) were the Central Government, Public Companies, and Municipalities.

For K-Albanians who perceive to have been discriminated against, these top three institutions are the Central Government, Public Companies, and Municipalities, while for K-Serbs they are the Central Government, Kosovo Policy and Public Companies tied with one International Presence in Kosovo.

Municipalities followed by a tie between Central Government and Public Companies are the top three institutions responsible for discrimination against the Other minority respondents (Table 4.6).

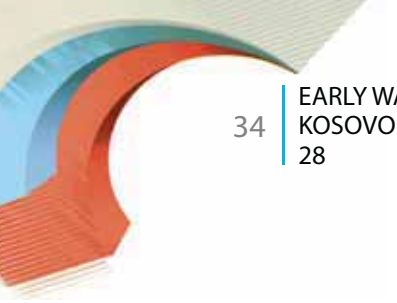
**Table 4.6: Institutions most responsible for discrimination**

	Ethnicity		
	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Others
Municipalities	28.6%	5.3%	41.7%
Kosovo Police	16.1%	26.3%	8.3%
Courts	21.4%	.0%	.0%
KPA or KAP	16.1%	.0%	.0%
A public company (KEK, PTK, Water companies etc)	32.1%	15.8%	25.0%
A private Company	5.4%	.0%	.0%
A public health institution	25.0%	.0%	8.3%
A private health institution	1.8%	.0%	.0%
A public school or academic institution	3.6%	.0%	16.7%
Central Government (ministries others services provided )	41.1%	36.8%	25.0%
One of the international presences in Kosovo	1.8%	15.8%	.0%

Those who felt discriminated reported several bases upon which discrimination took place. The April 2010 poll results show that the top three bases of discrimination for K- Albanians are political opinion, age, and gender. For K-Serbs, these include ethnicity, language, and age, while for Other minority respondents, the top three bases of discrimination include ethnicity, age, and gender tied with political opinion (Table 4.7).

**Table 4.7: Basis of discrimination**

	Ethnicity		
	K-Albanians	K-Serbs	Others
Sex / gender	10.7%	3.7%	8.3%
Age	32.1%	11.1%	16.7%
Language	3.6%	25.9%	8.3%
Religion / belief	7.1%	7.4%	.0%
Ethnicity / nationality	1.8%	66.7%	66.7%
Political or other opinion	53.6%	.0%	8.3%
Disability	3.6%	.0%	.0%
Other	1.8%	.0%	.0%



## Chapter 5

### KOSOVO ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

By: Nezakete Hakaj

#### Environment

For a sustainable economical and social development, it is important to achieve the required balance between human activities and environmental protection.

During development of various forms of activities and the potential for economic and social development, continuous check of this balance is important.

#### Environmental pressures

Numerous evaluations and studies<sup>1</sup> performed on the state of environment, show that environmental situation in Kosovo is relatively harsh. Factors that continue pressuring environment, and thus threatening sustainable development, include discharge of pollutants from the industry, obsolete technology used in industry, inadequate technology in some industrial sectors, use of fertile land for constructions, irrational use of natural resources, accumulation of urban and industrial

waste, piling up of waste, hazardous material and their weak management, non-professional use of chemicals in agriculture and discharge of black waters without prior treatment.

As a result of the above, Kosovo's environment is facing serious problems regarding water, air and soil quality.

#### Water quality

Quality of potable water (in rural areas), surface waters and ground waters is unsatisfactory.

Pollution of surface and ground waters is mainly caused by discharge of black, industrial and other waters without prior treatment, especially from waters flowing out from mines, drainage waters from urban and industrial landfills, agricultural nitrates and disposal of unused oils.

Lack of funds for establishing a sewage network and purchase of plants for treating polluted waters leaves way for aggravating the problem that is causing persistent pollution of waters and is harming the health of the population.

Polluted water is the cause of more than 200 diseases such as cholera, typhus, malaria, hepatitis A, C, etc<sup>2</sup>.

Another problem is unsanctioned use of water resources and uncontrolled use of gravel from waterbeds.

#### Air quality

Air pollution is also another concerning issue especially for inhabitants of large cities and towns near industrial zones, which is caused

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Kosovo Environmental Action Plan 2006 – 2010, State of environment in Kosovo, 2004; <http://www.ks.gov.net/mmph/shqip/index.htm>  
State of waste in Kosovo 2003-2004, Ministry of Energy and Mines, Energy Strategy, 2005 – 2015, European Agency for Reconstruction Carl Bro Comp., Environmental Impact - - Assessment and Action Plan for Kosovo A and B Power Plants and Coal Mines, June 2003, Kosovo Biodiversity Assessment, USAID/Kosovo, May 2003  
<http://www.ks.gov.net/akmm/dokumente/Kosovo-Biodiversity-Assessment.pdf>
  - <sup>2</sup> Kosovo National Institute of Public Health, POTABLE WATER QUALITY – KOSOVO 2007, communication with consumers Prishtina, 09 July 2008,  
Data from monitoring of potable water sources by KNIPH indicates that greatest pollution of potable water comes from bacteriological contamination. Records of contagious diseases in 2007 indicate that 46% of all contagious diseases belong to diarrheal syndrome, influence 35%, LRI pneumonia 13% and Varicela 6%.  
[http://www.wvro-ks.org/Workshops/09\\_07\\_08/5\\_IKSHPK.ppt#299,23,Slide 23](http://www.wvro-ks.org/Workshops/09_07_08/5_IKSHPK.ppt#299,23,Slide 23)

by emission of pollutants from energy sector, industry, transport sector as well as households.

Pollutants emitted by the above sectors include air suspended particles (PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>), sulphide dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), non-metallic organic volatile alloys (NMVOC), heavy metals, hexachlorobenzene (HCB) and poly-chlorine dibenzo-dioxide (PCDD/F).

These pollutants negatively affect the quality of environmental air, indoor air, eco-system and human health in considerable manner, diminishing also the life quality. Quantity of emissions in the air depends on used fuel, operational technology and equipment maintenance.

Power generating plants use fossil fuel such as coal and oil derivatives with high content of sulphur and constitute greatest emitters of air pollution.

Households and public services mostly use electric power but also combustion of coal and biomass.

Figure 1: Consumption of energy sources in household sector during 2008<sup>3</sup>

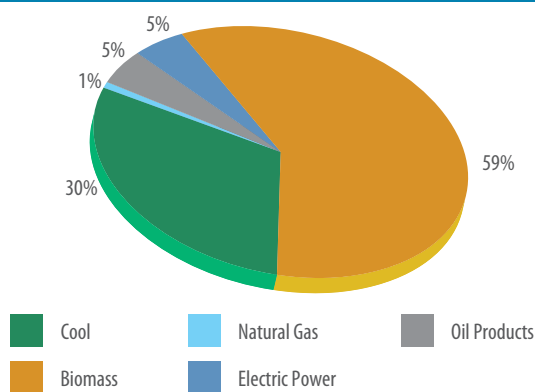


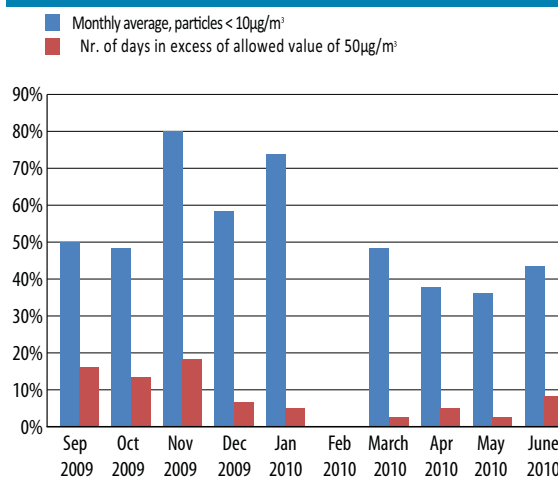
Figure 1 shows that households mainly use biomass for heating which indicates high air pollution, especially during winter season.

Emissions from combusting solid fuels in general are much higher at equipment with

lower combustion (mainly used in households and public services), rather than equipment with high combustion, due to incomplete combustion of solid fuels.

Expansion of air quality monitoring network already started which is a good initiative for establishing policies for undertaking steps in improving air quality.

Figure 2: Monitoring of PM<sub>10</sub>, in KNIPH, Prishtina, September 2009 – June 2010<sup>4</sup>



Monitoring data for PM<sub>10</sub> particles, by Kosovo Hydro-Meteorological Institute (KHMI), presented in figure 2, show that concentration of PM<sub>10</sub> particles in the air is highest during winter season (allowed value of PM<sub>10</sub> is 50µg/m<sup>3</sup>).

Latest assessment performed by WHO and COMEAP<sup>5</sup>, found that exposure to PM particles may cause respiratory and cardiovascular diseases and death, but may also cause other diseases.

“Based on the report 2008, Kosovo National Institute of Public Health recorded total 13.136 contagious diseases of respiratory organs (12%) out of total contagious diseases. No data were reported on chronic respiratory diseases by our health institutions”<sup>6</sup>.

3 Data on consumption of energy sources in household sector presented in figure 1 were taken from Energy balance of Republic of Kosovo and Riinvest

4 Chart in figure 1 presents data from monitoring of PM<sub>10</sub> particles performed by KNIPH

5 WHO – World Health Organization and COMEAP – Health Committee on Effects of Air Polluters

6 Report on air pollution, January - March, 2009. Kosovo National Institute of Public Health [http://www.obscuredesign.net/niph-kosova/files/RAPORTI\\_AJRI\\_JANAR\\_MARS\\_2009.pdf](http://www.obscuredesign.net/niph-kosova/files/RAPORTI_AJRI_JANAR_MARS_2009.pdf)

Quality and investments in rehabilitation and development of infrastructure for protection of air quality is still in low level.

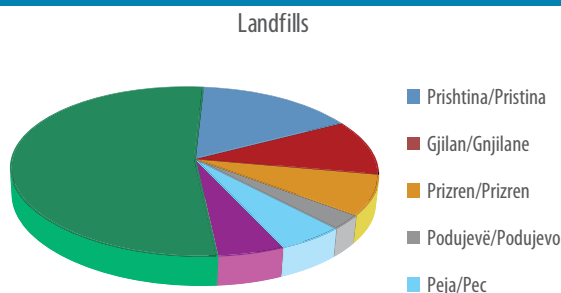
### Waste management

Waste management is a very complicated problematic, not only due to its variety, but also due to high cost of their management and treatment.

90% of urban population and around 10% of rural population is covered with waste collection system.

Out of overall structure of waste generated in Kosovo, 18% are municipal waste, based on the data for 2008 on disposed quantity of waste in regional landfills<sup>7</sup>, (presented in figure 3; comparing to previous years, it is considered that in 2008 the quantity of waste collected in the landfill has increased progressively, which is a good indicator of good waste collection services.

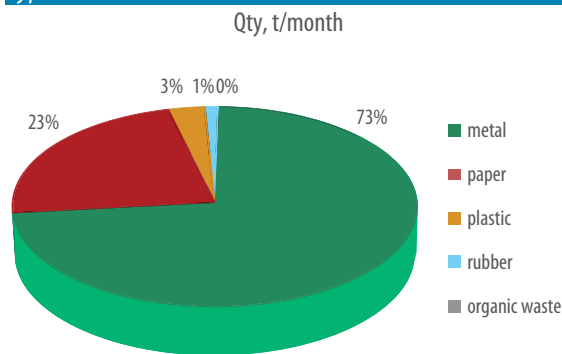
Figure 3. Quantity of urban waste in landfills of Kosovo



There are no major activities in Kosovo in waste selection and treatment. Waste is selected and treated in small quantities, and the products are sold abroad.

Out of total waste treated in Kosovo, presented in figure 4<sup>8</sup>, we may conclude that population is more conscious on importance of selection, collection and treatment of waste that may be used as raw material for producing various products.

Figure 4. Percentage of waste types treated in Kosovo



Apart from urban waste, another problem is hazardous waste which is generated by industrial and medical activities that present danger to human health and environment. These specifically include wastes from metallurgic activities (that contain heavy metals), used oils, batteries, hospital waste, expired medicaments, waste from medical centres and agriculture, packaging of hazardous materials, electric and electronic waste, etc.

Collection and treatment of waste is an important issue that requires establishment of a functional system that would help not only in protection of environment, but it would make way to development of reprocessing business and job generation.

### Biodiversity and natural heritage

Protection and expansion of protected areas still remains the main objective.

Conservation of nature through protected areas is an important instrument for protection of biodiversity. Until today, an area of 46.247.3 ha or 4.27 % of the Kosovo territory is protected area<sup>10</sup>.

Protected areas of nature present another opportunity for economic development,

7 State of waste in Kosovo, 2008, [http://www.akmrks.net/dokumente/2Raporti\\_i\\_mbeturinave\\_2008.pdf](http://www.akmrks.net/dokumente/2Raporti_i_mbeturinave_2008.pdf)

8 Data for figure 4 were taken from the Report on state of waste in Kosovo, 2008, [http://www.akmrks.net/dokumente/2Raporti\\_i\\_mbeturinave\\_2008.pdf](http://www.akmrks.net/dokumente/2Raporti_i_mbeturinave_2008.pdf)

9 Value of natural heritage of Kosovo (2005), Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning [http://www.ks.gov.net/mmph/document/shqip/Vlerat\\_e\\_trashegimis\\_natyrore\\_te\\_Kosoves.pdf](http://www.ks.gov.net/mmph/document/shqip/Vlerat_e_trashegimis_natyrore_te_Kosoves.pdf),

especially in the field of tourism and other forms of traditional development of agriculture.

The example of UNDP project in Dragash "Management authority of Sharrprodhim" – making this model functional would be a great institutional step and outstanding example to be replicated in other areas of Kosovo, for the purpose of good management and governance of public land<sup>10</sup>.

## Forests

Kosovo forests and fallow land cover around 47% of country's territory. Average wood quantity per hectare is approximately 90m<sup>3</sup> and average annual growth is around 3m<sup>3</sup> per hectare.

Ill-management of forests in the past resulted in their heavy degradation.

In Kosovo, according to MAFRD - Kosovo Forest Agency<sup>11</sup>, annually 185.890 cubic meters of technical and firewood are harvested. Besides, pests such as insects, fungus, animals and climate conditions further aggravate the state of forests.

## Raising Awareness Factors and education on environmental issues

Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning performed an optimum engagement through its programs, in organizing various educational campaigns throughout schools of Kosovo.

Environmental NGOs have limited impact due to the lack of experience and knowledge in this field.

Also media don't cover environmental issues enough. Kosovo lacks a specialist journalist in the field of environment.

## Social – economic and environmental development

Long-term success of social and economic development of Kosovo shall depend on sustainability of policies pursued in development of agriculture, industry, energy,

mines, transport, etc. but each of these policies, disregarding if observed individually or jointly, is depended on environment absorption capacity.

Achieving balance between human activities and environmental protection requires a delineation of responsibilities. This includes integration of environmental issues in formulation and implementation of economical and sector-based policies.

## Conclusion

Obtaining good quality of environment and health of population requires time but also immediate concrete steps to ensure immediate results such as:

- Changes to attitudes in society on consumption that may be achieved through inclusion of all sectors, including public administration, public and private enterprises and public in general.
- Establishment of hazardous waste management system including safe disposal and treatment of waste that would diminish the risk to environment and public health.
- Funds for building sewage systems and plants for treatment of black waters
- Forestation of certain areas in line with recommendations developed by the Sustainable Forest Management Project<sup>12</sup>.
- Reduction of air pollution through full implementation of National Plan on Energy Efficiency 2009-2016.
- Polluters start improving technological processes and implementation of best available techniques (BAT), rational use of natural resources, reduction in quantity of waste and possibility of recycling.

Based on the above, environment presents a great challenge facing Kosovo society aiming at achieving overall strategic objectives that present setting-up and integration of national environmental standards with EU standards.

10 Plan on Agriculture and Rural Development 2009-13; [www.ks.gov.net/Mbpzhr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket...tabid=77](http://www.ks.gov.net/Mbpzhr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket...tabid=77).

11 State of environment in Kosovo, 2004; <http://www.ks-gov.net/mmph/shqip/index.htm>

12 Plan on Agriculture and Rural Development 2009-13, measure 4; 2.; [www.ks.gov.net/Mbpzhr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket...tabid=77](http://www.ks.gov.net/Mbpzhr/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket...tabid=77).

## SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AND KEY POINTS

### Focus Group Meeting

While discussing the EWR 28 findings and methodology, the following suggestions were made by the participants of the Focus Group in terms of questions that could further enrich the data of the Early Warning Reports:

1. Follow-up questions to the question of whether respondent is willing to work together with K-Serb/K-Albanian. Perhaps helpful to disassociate this question from the state and to ask if willing to work with them in private sector/NGO. This question should also be followed with a question why they are unwilling to work with them.
2. Regarding the question of which institution is most responsible for the economic development, more specific questions should be asked, i.e. which ministry/minister for instance, and more specific questions regarding areas of economic development, such as regional cooperation/CEFTA. The questionnaire should include the European Commission and ICO as possible answer choices.
3. There are 38 municipalities now and the questionnaire should be updated to reflect this new reality.
4. A follow-up question regarding the number of respondents who gained/lost employment in the last six months should be included, i.e. why did they lose their job? What nature of job did they have/in what sector?
5. Questions on the opinion of respondents

about partition and swap of territories should be included.

6. Further analysis should link/crosstab questions regarding the level of social interaction between K-Serbs and K-Albanians and their willingness to work with each other.
7. A question should be added on the knowledge of languages, especially Albanian for K-Serbs and Serbian for K-Albanians, disaggregated into age groups, gender and the rural/urban divide.
8. More questions should be developed about judiciary and corruption, i.e. ask about specific crimes, rather than larger concepts.
9. Include question on nepotism.

#### ***The participants of the Focus Group identified the following concerns raised by the poll data:***

1. Deterioration of interethnic relations
2. Increased economic pressure (willingness to protest)
3. Decreased government satisfaction
4. Half of K-Albanians feel discriminated against due to their political convictions.
5. Perceptions of discrimination amongst minorities
6. Poverty / unemployment, economic exclusion à frustration

#### ***Among key alarming scenarios that the Focus Group participants discussed are:***

1. The increased readiness to protest, along with the feeling of half of K-Albanian respondents that they are discriminated against because of their political convictions, along with high poverty and unemployment is a clear risk that made lead to unrest.
2. This rising frustration with the political and economic situation, which is mainly

directed toward the government, has the potential to become misdirected at minority communities if even just a minor incident occurs.

***Other developments that were perceived as worrying by the participants of the Focus Group include:***

- There seems to be a re-establishment of barriers between K-Albanians and K-Serbs, in particular the use of radical language in relation to events in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica by Serbian media.
- Discussions on partition and exchange of territories have also contributed to the deterioration of situation in terms of interethnic relations. Furthermore according to expert observations the public discourse on partition and exchange of territories has also led to an increase of worries and uncertainty about the future among K-Serbs living south of the Ibër/Ibar river as well as K-Albanians living north of the river.

***According to the participants of the Focus Group, factors that have contributed to the increased dissatisfaction among the Kosovo population are the following:***

- Economic problems and unemployment
- Reports on crime and corruption and lack of persecution of judicial decisions.
- Discrimination of Kosovo in terms of regional cooperation
- Exclusion of Kosovo from visa liberalization process.
- Problems with nepotism.
- Low quality of public services.

In relation to judiciary, the general observation is that the situation remains worrying and there have been very few positive developments in the past years. For example appointments of judges is very slow and stagnating, there is a lack of support staff for judges, and in most courts there is an issue with lack of space, and in general there is a lack of general support for judiciary, rule of law and decisions made by judiciary.

## SELECTED MEDIA EVENTS

### January – March 2010

Coalition parties agree on changes (dailies)

Zëri reports that announced changes within the governing cabinet appear to be unavoidable in order to secure the continued functioning of Kosovo's current Government. The increasing pressure imposed by public opinion and the executive's shaky stability during local elections has convinced the coalition partners of the need to make changes.

Visa liberalization for Kosovo under review (dailies)

Former EU High Representative for Security and Foreign Policy Javier Solana has said that regional cooperation and reconciliation in the Balkans are of crucial importance. Solana hailed the decision of the European Commission to include Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia in the visa liberalization scheme, and added that the EU is reviewing ways to include Kosovo in the process as well.

#### 5-Jan-10

Jeremic: We will in no way recognize Kosovo (dailies)

Ivanovic: Montenegro should think carefully before establishing diplomatic relations with Kosovo (dailies)

Serbia pays 725 state security officials in Kosovo (dailies)

Several dailies quote a report from Austrian paper Money that Serb parallel structures do not operate only in the north of Kosovo but also in central Kosovo. The paper adds that the payrolls of the Serbian Government include 725 officials from nine Kosovo municipalities inhabited only by Albanians.

#### 6-Jan-10

Government approves Tadic's request to visit Decan (dailies)

Sejdiu calls on ICO and EULEX to deal with Belgrade (dailies)

Dailies report that President Fatmir Sejdiu has called on EULEX and ICO leaders to launch urgent measures to dissolve Serb parallel structures and to prevent other destructive action by Belgrade. Sejdiu made these requests at a meeting with EULEX chief Yves De Kermabon and ICO deputy head Fletcher Burton.

Mitrovica becomes tense (dailies)

A number of dailies report that several incidents took place on Monday in Kroi i Vitakut and Kodra e Minatorëve in the northern part of Mitrovica, right after the news that Serbian President Boris Tadic is expected to visit Kosovo.

#### 13-Jan-10

EULEX arrests second suspect in Bllaca case (dailies)

Dailies report that EULEX yesterday arrested Driton Hajdari for suspected involvement in two assassination attempts. EULEX, in a press release issued after the arrest, said that the operation was undertaken based on an order from the prosecutor assigned to the Bllaca case.

Government and EULEX have different approaches to northern courts (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that differences between representatives of the Kosovo Government and the EULEX mission regarding the dynamics in the north reappeared at a meeting of the joint coordinating Board for the rule of law.

Freedom House: Kosovo is partially free (dailies)

#### 14-Jan-10

Police expel Bogdanovic from Kosovo (dailies)

All dailies report that Kosovo Police expelled Serbian Minister for Kosovo Goran Bogdanovic from the territory of the Republic of Kosovo on Wednesday, as according to police, he was conducting political activities in the municipality of Shtërpce.

Mauritania recognizes Kosovo (dailies)

Illegal Serb company threatens the north (Kosova Sot)

The Serbian Energy Corporation (EPS) is reported to have threatened residents in the north of Kosovo that their electricity will be cut off if they fail to pay bills issued by EPS.

#### 15-Jan-10

Elections, first challenge of northern strategy (dailies)

Papers report that the Quint countries' ambassadors in Kosovo held a meeting with the International Civilian Office (ICO) chief Pieter Feith to discuss the strategy for northern Kosovo and concrete steps necessary for the establishment of the Mitrovica North municipality.

De Kermabon: Parallel structures are irrelevant (dailies)

EULEX closes UNMIK files (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the Kosovo Supreme Court has closed all files inherited from UNMIK.

#### 22-Jan-10

EULEX does not identify itself with strategy for north (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that EULEX officials have accepted that EULEX mission was consulted during the preparation of the draft of strategy for the north, but hesitated to be identified with it.

European Commission urges changes to election law (dailies)

#### 25-Jan-10

Feith: Belgrade to be consulted on strategy (dailies)

Several dailies report that European Union Special Pieter Feith has said that he will consult Belgrade on the strategy for integration of northern Kosovo into, as he said, the Kosovo system, adding that implementation of the strategy does not mean imposed solutions or using force.

Serwer: Belgrade's strategy is to enter EU and block Kosovo (dailies)

#### 29-Jan-10

Jessen-Petersen: Belgrade could challenge the strategy (dailies)

Dailies report that former UNMIK chief Soren Jessen-Petersen has told the BBC that the strategy of the Kosovo Government and ICO for the north is a good one, and that it came at the right time;

#### 2-Feb-10

Zannier concerned about the north (Koha Ditore)

On the front page, Koha Ditore carries an interview with head of UNMIK Lamberto Zannier in which he says that the UN mission in Kosovo will continue to function in accordance with resolution 1244, while maintaining a status-neutral stance.

Rasmussen: NATO supports any strategy for integration in Kosovo (dailies)

Mesic: We only recognized the reality (dailies)

Dailies report that Croatia's outgoing President Stipe Mesic, announced that recognition of Kosovo's independence was recognition of reality and added that Croatia should keep correct relations with Kosovo.

### 3-Feb-10

Turkey pledges to continue support for Kosovo (dailies)

### 4-Feb-10

Thaçi: Parliamentary elections in autumn 2011 (Epoka e Re)

Zannier: UNMIK to facilitate cooperation between communities (dailies)

Dailies report that UNMIK chief Lamberto Zannier said in Mitrovica that UNMIK will continue to provide its assistance in facilitating cooperation between communities.

European Commission destroys visa liberalization hopes (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the Stabilization Association dialogue began last week with EU experts, and includes the issue of visa liberalization. However, the daily notes that the process is still currently only at the dialogue level, and that negotiations and hopes for visa liberalization are far away.

Supreme Court annuls ECAC decision on Gjilan (dailies)

### 5-Feb-10

Ministry of Interior does not reach agreement with police (dailies)

Koha Ditore reports that after hours of talks, the most that was offered to the unhappy policemen was €20, as opposed to an earlier promise of doubling salaries.

Hyseni invites Clinton to Kosovo (dailies)

Russia: Strategy for the north is illegitimate (dailies)

Koha Ditore reports that the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has criticized the Strategy for Northern Kosovo, considering that this does not fall under the mandate of the European Union Special Representative.

### 9-Feb-10

ISG supports strategy (dailies)

Koha Ditore reports that the strategy for the integration of northern of Kosovo has received the unanimous support of the 25 member states of the International Steering Group (ISG) in a meeting held on Monday in Vienna.

Mesic: Borders have been determined (dailies)

In an interview with BBC, outgoing Croatian President Stjepan Mesic said that the issue of borders in southeastern Europe has finally been resolved.

### 9-Feb-10

Feith: Kosovo Police capable of protecting Orthodox churches (Koha Ditore)

LDD leader makes coalition offer to LDK (dailies)

The leading story in most dailies this morning is that of LDD leader Nexhat Daci "putting the past behind him and reaching out a hand of cooperation" to LDK leader Fatmir Sejdiu.

Jeremic “spites” Austrian counterpart because of Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that Austrian sources have said that Vuk Jeremic cancelled a press conference scheduled with his Austrian Counterpart Michael Spindelegger, because he met some days before with Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi in Vienna.

### 15-Feb-10

UNMIK signals permission to rebuild Bosniak Mahalla (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the UNMIK Administration which is still responsible for the northern part of Mitrovica has shown signs of flexibility regarding the reconstruction of houses in the Bosniak Mahalla which were burnt and demolished during the war.

Tadic: Serbia is Kosovo’s bridge to UN (Zëri, dailies)

Zëri reports that Serbian President Boris Tadic stated that without the compliance of Serbia, Kosovo can never be a UN member and that an entity which cannot become a member of this international organization in essence will never be an independent state.

Serbia to show pragmatism toward Kosovo (dailies)

Dailies reports that the German Foreign Ministry spokesperson Andreas Peschke has said that Germany’s view is that Kosovo’s integrity is intact and that a division of northern Kosovo is out of the question.

### 18-Feb-10

EU missions divided over “celebration” of independence (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that 17 February was an ordinary day at work for Europeans employed by EULEX, but not for other Europeans in Kosovo. The EU’s neutral position with regard to Kosovo’s status did not prevent two other EU presences in Kosovo – the Office of European Commission and the Office of the EU Special Representative – from having the day off.

### 19-Feb-10

Dell does not favour elections in 2010 (dailies)

Koha Ditore reports that U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo Christopher Dell said in an interview with Jeta ne Kosove (BIRN) that it would not be of benefit for elections to be held this year.

Fitzgerald: Parallel structures threaten security (dailies)

### 22-Feb-10

Kosovar lobbying to focus on five non-recognizing EU members (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the five EU member states that have not recognized Kosovo will be the focus of Kosovar lobbying.

Kosovo weak in combating corruption (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that the U.S.-based Global International organization has assessed that Kosovo has the lowest performance in combating corruption.

Vetëvendosja reviews possibility of taking part in next elections (dailies)

### 24-Feb-10

Kurti trial postponed again (dailies)

Belgrade insists on retaining parallel structures (Koha Ditore)

Tahir Rrecaj resigns from Supreme Court (dailies)

The head of the Elections Complaints and Appeals Commission and newly-reappointed Supreme Court judge Tahir Rrecaj has resigned from his Supreme Court position. Rrecaj said that he resigned because of a disagreement regarding serious irregularities during the reappointment of judges and prosecutors.

### 3-Mar-10

A new Dayton for division of Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

Koha Ditore reports that although Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic reiterated in Washington that “he would never recognize Kosovo’s independence,” according to Belgrade daily Danas, behind closed doors he showed readiness to seek a compromise solution and “for any result, which would be in the interest of peace in Balkans.”

Bllaca house arrest extended by two months (dailies)

Dailies report that the district court in Pristina has extended Nazim Bllaca’s house arrest for another two months. Bllaca has admitted to committing 17 crimes, allegedly on behalf of the former Kosovo Intelligence Service (SHIK).

### 5-Mar-10

Heated debate at Kosovo Assembly over the situation in the north (dailies)

All dailies cover the heated debate held yesterday at the Assembly of Kosovo over the situation in the non-integrated north. Koha Ditore reports on the front page that Kosovo legislators have admitted that illegal structures that challenge the constitutional order continue to operate in certain parts of the country.

Frattini: We will respect the ICJ decision (dailies)

Dailies report that in an interview for Belgrade media, Italian Foreign Minister Franko Frattini said Italy would continue its balanced approach toward Kosovo, and it will respect the decision of the International Court of Justice regarding the declaration of Kosovo’s independence.

Leposavic municipality with measures against strategy (dailies)

### 8-Mar-10

Leposavic municipality with measures against strategy (dailies)

### 10-Mar-10

Thaçi would shake hands with Tadic (dailies)

Dailies report that in an interview for Reuters news agency, Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi said that he plans to participate at the regional conference of political leaders in Slovenia and that he would be pleased to shake hands and talk to Serbia’s President Boris Tadic.

Institutional leaders believe KFOR-KSF disagreements are overcome (dailies)

Dohrmann: KFOR will not punish the KSF (dailies)

Several dailies quote the commander of KFOR U.S. troops, General Alan Dohrmann, as saying that KFOR does not intend to punish the Kosovo Security Force but to reach an agreement that is satisfactory for both parties.

Leterme: Visa liberalization depends on recognitions (dailies)

In a visit to Kosovo, Belgian Prime Minister Yves Leterme confirmed his country’s support for Kosovo. He also said that the visa liberalization issue is linked to Kosovo’s recognition of independence, starting from the countries that are part of the Schengen visa agreement.

Frattini: EU should start dialogue for removal of visas (dailies)

### 24-Mar-10

EU approves own policy for northern Kosovo (Koha Ditore)

Great Britain pledges support for Kosovo (dailies)

Feith: Government restructuring is Thaçi’s responsibility (dailies)

**25-Mar-10**

EULEX continues with efforts to become functional in the north (Koha Ditore)

**26-Mar-10**

Thaçi welcomes opening of EU office in northern Mitrovica (dailies)

Government calls on KEK to stop collective disconnections (dailies)

**31-Mar-10**

Restructuring 'raises temperatures' in LDK (Koha Ditore)

LDK officials have said that the government restructuring process will raise temperatures at the party headquarters today when the presidency will meet to reach a definite decision on the reconfiguration of its ministers.

Steinberg: Kosovo independence is a factor of stability in the region (dailies)

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg has said that the independence of Kosovo supports regional stability, and that Kosovo has made extraordinary progress in the first two years of independence.

ICJ does set deadline on Kosovo issue (dailies)

Dailies report that International Court of Justice (ICJ) officials announced that the Court has not set a timeframe regarding its advisory opinion on the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence.

European Commission neutral on Kosovo status (dailies)

Several dailies report that EU Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Füle has said that the European Commission is neutral on the issue of Kosovo's status, but added that there is a clear European perspective for Serbia and Kosovo.

Protesters demand release of persons convicted in Hajra case (dailies)

A protest held yesterday in front of the Government Building is reported to have gathered hundreds of citizens who demanded the release of three former KLA members convicted of killing the Hajra family.