



The European Union's Commitment to Northern Kosovo

factsheet

Introduction

All 27 EU Member States are committed to the European perspective of the Western Balkans including Serbia and Kosovo. Naturally, this includes northern Kosovo. The EU's objectives for the north of Kosovo are the same as for the whole of Kosovo: to promote good governance, socio-economic development and strengthening of the rule of law. These objectives are being carried out by the EU's organisations in the north, the European Commission Liaison Office and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX). Their work is co-ordinated together with the EU's Facilitator for the North and Italian Ambassador, Michael Giffoni.

What is the EU doing in practice in the north?

- The EC Liaison Office has among others helped many small businesses to start or expand their activities. eg the wood processing enterprise Javor from Brnjak, the Kolasin bakery in Zubin Potok, Tara-Komerc in Leposavic and Extra Plast and Dynamic Trade in Zvecan.
- Around 230 sustainable employment positions have been created and there has been a total investment of more than 4.6 million Euros
- 1.1 million Euros has been invested in the lead refinery plant in Zvecan where hundreds of tons of used car batteries are being recycled.
- The EC Liaison Office is involved in several ongoing projects eg the installation of the Kiosk Market in North Mitrovica, the building of the International Wholesale Market, the Business Complex in Zvecan and the development of the Ibar River Bank. It is also building a health centre in Zubin Potok, a water plant for the Mitrovica area and a water purification system in Leposavic.
- EULEX, supported by all EU Member States, firmly believes that the rule of law needs to be strengthened in order to benefit all communities in Kosovo, including in the north.
- EULEX has reopened the courthouse in Mitrovica and 11 trials have already taken place. EULEX is working hard on bringing local judges and prosecutors back to work.
- EULEX has 24 hour presence of police and customs at Gates 1 and 31 in order to fight organised crime, including smuggling. It is estimated that since EULEX has been present at Gates 1 and 31 there has been a 60% reduction in smuggling
- EULEX has 13 permanent police officers based in the 4 northern stations in monitoring functions and additional officers at the gates
- The work of the EC Liaison Office and EULEX brings the region closer on the path to achieving its European perspective.



EULEX building the rule of law



EC Liaison Office supporting small businesses

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