

Are the remaining Serbian institutions in Kosovo being dissolved?

(Da li se na Kosovu gase poslednje srpske institucije?)

The position of Serbian institutions in Kosovo represents one of the key political and social issues in the relations between Belgrade and Pristina, but also in the daily life of the Serbian community in that area. Serbian institutions in Kosovo include the system of local self-government, education, health and other public services that have functioned for decades within the legal and institutional system of the Republic of Serbia. Their role is particularly important for the survival of the Serbian population, as they ensure access to basic public services, preservation of identity and institutional connection with Serbia.

After the signing of the Brussels Agreement in 2013, the integration of part of the Serbian structures into the Kosovo institutional system was foreseen, with the simultaneous formation of the Community of Serbian Municipalities as a mechanism for the collective autonomy of Serbian communities. The agreement covered areas such as the police, judiciary, local self-government, education and health, with the aim of normalizing relations and institutionalizing the position of Serbs in Kosovo.

However, the process of implementation of the agreement remained incomplete, especially because the Association of Serbian Municipalities was not formed, while certain Serbian institutions were shut down or integrated into the Kosovo system over time. This led to a complex and unstable institutional position of the Serbian community, in which the question of the functioning of Serbian institutions remains central to their social, political and security status in Kosovo.

This report analyzes the position of Serbian institutions in Kosovo through the prism of the newspaper article "Are the last Serbian institutions closing down in Kosovo?" published on the Deutsche Welle portal in 2026, with the aim of showing their role, challenges and importance in the contemporary political context.

Overview of the Article's Content

A newspaper article published on the Deutsche Welle portal deals with the issue of the possible shutdown of the last Serbian institutions in Kosovo, with a special focus on educational and health institutions that function in the system of the Republic of Serbia. The reason for the text is a letter from the University of Kosovo in Pristina addressed to the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Kosovska Mitrovica, which asks that higher education institution to leave the building that the Kosovo authorities consider its property. The author interprets this event as part of a wider process of integration of Serbian institutions into the Kosovo institutional system.

The article states that Serbian healthcare and education employees in Kosovo have been encouraged for months to recognize diplomas in the Kosovo system, which indicates the expected institutional integration. The interlocutors of the text believe that it is a long-term prepared process that is now accelerating, where the key remaining Serbian institutions are precisely in the education and health sectors.

In particular, the concern of the academic community and students, who do not have clear information about the future of their institutions, is highlighted, which leads to a feeling of insecurity and thinking about leaving Kosovo. Analysts also warn about the unresolved issue of public property, which can lead to similar disputes in other institutions, such as hospitals and schools.

The article also points to the political context, stating that the Kosovo authorities are announcing the gradual integration of the education and health systems, while Belgrade's reactions have been assessed as weak. This situation is interpreted as part of the previously agreed upon process of normalization of relations, which further strengthens the impression that it is a systemic transformation of Serbia's institutional presence in Kosovo.

Analysis and Discussion

The issue of shutting down or integrating Serbian institutions in Kosovo has wider political and social significance than individual cases such as the dispute over the Faculty of Technical Sciences. Serbian institutions in the fields of education, health and local administration have been the key mechanism for the survival of the Serbian community in Kosovo for decades, because they enabled the functioning of a parallel institutional system connected to Serbia. Their gradual extinction or inclusion in the Kosovo system therefore has direct consequences for the identity, security and socioeconomic position of Serbs in Kosovo.

The process of integration of institutions should be seen in the context of the long-term crisis in the north of Kosovo and disputes over jurisdiction and sovereignty. In recent years, the Kosovo authorities have closed certain Serbian administrative structures and limited their work, thereby reducing the institutional autonomy of the Serbian community. This confirms the broader trend that the article describes through the example of educational and health institutions.

The article implies that the integration process is part of the political agreements between Belgrade and Pristina, but does not go into the legal framework and obligations of both parties in detail. Also, it dominantly conveys the views of interlocutors from the Serbian community, while the perspectives of Kosovo institutions are less represented. Because of this, the text has an emphasized perspective of concern and loss, which is understandable given the subject matter, but reduces the analytical balance. Nevertheless, the article clearly shows the perception of the Serbian community that the institutional space of Serbia in Kosovo is gradually narrowing.

It is important to note that the issue of institutions does not concern only the administration, but also the everyday life of the population. The integration of the education and health systems means a change in the language of administration, curricula, funding and the legal status of employees. This explains why the article emphasizes the fear of population departure, as institutional changes often affect demographic flows in ethnically sensitive areas.

Conclusion

Based on the analyzed article, it can be concluded that the position of Serbian institutions in Kosovo is in a phase of accelerated transformation, characterized by gradual integration into the Kosovo institutional system. The dispute over the Faculty of Technical Sciences in Kosovska Mitrovica is a symbolic and practical example of that process, which particularly affects the education and health sectors as the last remaining key institutions of the Serbian community.

The article shows that among Serbs in Kosovo there is a pronounced concern about the loss of institutional connection with Serbia and uncertainty about the future of public services. At the same time, the political context indicates that changes are taking place within the broader process of normalization of relations between Belgrade and Pristina, which means that the fate of Serbian institutions depends on international negotiations and the implementation of earlier agreements.

The issue of the survival of Serbian institutions therefore remains one of the central issues of the position of the Serbian community in Kosovo, because access to public services, collective identity and the long-term sustainability of the Serbian presence in that area depend on it.¹²³⁴

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¹ Jokić, Đ. Insajder (2026) „Ovo je više kraj kraja nego početak: Počela formalna integracija preostalih srpskih institucija u prištinski sistem” [This Is More the End Than the Beginning: Formal Integration of Remaining Serbian Institutions into the Priština System Has Begun], Insajder. Available at : <https://insajder.net teme/ovo-je-vise-kraj-kraja-nego-pocetak-pocela-formalna-integracija-preostalih-srpskih-institucija-u-pristinski-sistem>

² Danas.rs. (2026, February 13) „Krši se pravo na obrazovanje, to znači korak ka integraciji”: Profesorka PMF-a u Kosovskoj Mitrovici [Violation of the Right to Education: A Step Towards the Integration of Serbian Institutions]. Available at : <https://www.danas.rs/vesti/politika/profesorka-pmf-kosovo-univerzitet/>

³ Manojlović, I. (2026, February 13). „Da li se na Kosovu gase poslednje srpske institucije?” [Are the Last Serbian Institutions in Kosovo Being Shut Down?]. *Deutsche Welle*. Available at : <https://www.dw.com/sr/da-li-se-na-kosovu-gase-poslednje-srpske-institucije/a-75953552>

⁴ Euronews Serbia. (2025, January 15). „Zatvoreno oko 35 srpskih institucija na KiM, Petković: Danas je bez posla ostalo 1.100 ljudi” [Around 35 Serbian Institutions Closed in Kosovo and Metohija, Petković: Today 1,100 People Left Without Jobs]. Available at : <https://www.euronews.rs/srbija/politika/153518/zatvoreno-oko-35-srpskih-institucija-na-kim-petkovic-danas-je-bez-posla-ostalo-1100-ljudi/vest>