

BRIEF ANALYSIS  
**Urban planning for citizens**  
*September 2013, Prizren*

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## I. Introduction

*“Today’s city is not an accident. Its form is usually unintentional, but it is not accidental. It is the product of decisions made for single, separate purposes, whose interrelationships and side effects have not been fully considered. The design of cities has been determined by engineers, surveyors, lawyers, and investors, each making individual, rational decisions for rational reasons.” Jonathan Barnett (An Introduction to Urban Design)*

*“Our cities can be interpreted as the physical form of a dynamic struggle between the individual and the collective.” David Chipperfield (2012 Venice Biennale)*

In world today, contemporary transformations of the city fabric cause a profound change to the contours of public and private spaces. These changes spark a lively debate in architecture and urbanism in relation to the transformation of the public space: discourses that loudly herald the end of public spaces<sup>1</sup>, by pointing out the growing trend of their replacement with the commercial private premises; or the destruction of public spaces accessible to all, as a result of the universal campaign to increase the sense of security in cities – public spaces monitored by security cameras and secured suburbs – Gated Communities<sup>2</sup>; other discourses tending towards advocacy of new forms of collective-use public spaces based on integrated urbanism, which by conferring particular emphasis on processes, movements, interrelations, eventualities and symbiotic relationships between man and nature, the building and landscape aiming at reaching sustainable urban solutions, etc.<sup>3</sup>; “man matter most” strategies,

which evaluate and document the extent of “city life” – which should be invited above all through careful design of public spaces. This tradition of conception suggests holistic solutions which energize and transform cities into beautiful and healthy environments, with active and attractive public spaces that in social plan promote equality and sustainability<sup>4</sup>, etc.

Lately, the literature on the concepts of sustainable development are increasingly added and has already taken an impetus a new thinking convention and the practice of sustainable urban design, which is largely reflected in the shift of the urban design agenda towards broader issues of environmental responsibility. And not environmental only. With sustainable development in mind, designers should equally pay attention also to the social impact and long-term economic viability, as elements that influence in the shaping of cities today. The concept is already regulated and is part of the law of many countries in the world.

To encompass what was said so far, we may say that the city shapes our everyday life, through the opportunities, constraints and experiences it offers. It defines the physical and mental barriers and interrelations thus narrating the story of a society which has built it. A well designed city supports cultural integration, promotes health, strengthens the local trade exchange and fights crime.

## II. The concept of inclusive city

For Ali Madanipour, the city “is offered and managed by public authorities”, and “used and shared by all members of the community.” It is “a common institutional and material world, an intermediary space facilitating co-presence and

<sup>1</sup> Sorkin, Michael, ed. (1992). *Variations on a Theme Park: The New American City and the End of Public Space (hardcover)*. Hill & Wang

<sup>2</sup> Davis, Mike, ed (1992) *Beyond Blade Runner: Urban Control, The Ecology of Fear*. Open Magazine Pamphlet Series; First Edition edition (1992)

<sup>3</sup> Ellin, Nan, ed.(2006) *Integral Urbanism*, Routledge

<sup>4</sup> Gehl, Jan, (2010) *Cities for People*, ISLANDPRESS

regulating interpersonal relationships.”<sup>5</sup> As space shared equally by all members of the community, and as a product of democracy, the city also defines and presents convention and respect for others.

The concepts of sustainability and inclusiveness are two qualitative concepts that are often used in the field of planning and development discourses. The UN Habitat program defines the inclusive city as a city that promotes development with justice. The inclusive city “is a place where everyone, regardless of their economic, racial, gender, ethnicity or religious backgrounds, can fully participate in all social, economic and political opportunities the city offers.” According to this program, fairness is one of the three pillars of sustainability, and most important, it is crucial in the creation of sustainable and common urban future. (UN-Habitat, 2001)

The vision of the inclusive city is translated into physical setting through a comprehensive design and participatory planning. Comprehensive design allows people from different social and economic groups to participate in the development and evaluation of projects. Participatory planning is a pattern of urban planning aiming at the inclusion of the community in all the strategic and management processes of urban planning.

The initial approach of inclusive design is to encourage community members to play an important role in the early stages of the strategy designs and projects planning for their city. By way of inclusion of all the community, the real problems, their origin and potential solutions are set forth and discussed at various workshops. The projects and ideas resulting

from such community work are usually linked to the context; those emerging from the needs and culture of the community and the environment in which they exist. Due to the large turnout, the community will retain a strong sense of ownership and commitment to the project.

Successful projects are aesthetically pleasing and in harmony with the surrounding fabric of the community; people want to live and work in such places. These projects offer a sense of place with which people identify. People will understand the project.

In handbook “The Inclusive City”, Goltsman and Iacofano present the inclusive city planning as a solution “based on sensitive economic, social, environmental and cultural policies allowing everyone to progress economically along with the improvement of their living space.” They point out that cities need a planning approach that recognizes the right of each person’s involvement in the development processes: “Through participation, people can shape their environment to meet their needs.” More vulnerable groups usually are rarely included in the planning processes since they lack skills, knowledge and information. This then generates the risk of non-inclusion of their needs in urban design, which is further reflected in the relapse of their living environment. In order to address these issues, the aforementioned authors suggest an inclusive design process based on three categories: functionality (designing which incorporates all types of individuals), contextual sensibility (harmony with the surrounding environment) and the impact of fairness to “reduce social and human impact on the most vulnerable members of the society.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Madanipour, Ali, (2003) *Public and Private Spaces of the City*, Routledge

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<sup>6</sup> Goltsman, S, Iacofano, D, (2007), *The Inclusive City: Innovative Solutions for Buildings*,

To conclude what was said so far, during the planning and design of the cities should put particular emphasis on mitigation and, eventually, elimination of the inequalities that restrict and exclude groups of people, inequalities that prevent them in choosing the place and the way of living. Prevention of the perpetuation of inequalities is a must and social ties that define the vibrant and thriving cities should be encouraged.

### III. Participatory planning project

“Inclusive City – Participatory planning for sustainable urban development in Prizren” is a three-year project of EC Ma Ndryshe which aims at articulating the needs of community groups and to translate them into viable urban plans of the municipality of Prizren. The project is supported by Olof Palme International Center and started its implementation in January 2013. Community groups working within this project are: women, senior citizens, youth and persons with special needs, residents of poor neighbourhoods, culture and environment. Within a year of the project there will be organized four (4) focus groups meetings and one (1) public debate with each community group. Concurrently, a process of advocacy and cooperation with the Municipality of Prizren and the Directorate of Urban and Spatial Planning will take place to ensure inclusion of citizens in urban planning of their city.

In Kosovo, urban planning remains a technical activity led by the experts solely, which is largely based on the existing data and exhibits not much correlation with the environment (context) for which is drafted. Such practice produces mainly plans distant from the implementing capacity of local government and, moreover, it doesn't reflect the reality on the ground whereby citizens have no sense of affiliation. Citizen participation is limited within a certain several-day period and mostly few days before the final adoption of the plans.

There is an immediate need for inclusion of citizens' interests and aspirations in urban designs, especially of those groups that are deprived of the adequate infrastructure and public services. Broad participation of citizens is essential for urban plans to be relevant and applicable. The inclusive urban planning process helps also the local democracy process by

encouraging citizen involvement in all stages of this process. This new urban approach (New Urbanism) challenges the current model in Kosovo (socialist planning of cities), which offers insufficient space for a citizen.

The project will aim to meet these specific objectives: [a] To develop a methodology and comprehensive approach in urban planning, [b] To ensure the missing link between citizens and urban planners, [c] To develop a sense of affiliation to the citizens on the living environment, [d] To translate the interests and needs of citizens in viable urban plans, [e] To encourage active participation of disadvantaged and marginalized groups of society, [f] To promote an integrated approach of urban planning (social, economic, environmental and cultural).

This analysis sums up findings and provides recommendations based on the first survey of the project with an extensive sample in Prizren. Throughout the project, so far, were realized: 28 focus groups with seven (7) community groups; three public actions/performances for advocacy purposes (community initiatives); the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Directorate of Urbanism; and a survey with the citizens of Prizren on urban planning. During September and October will be realized seven debates and specific reports for each community group will be produced. At the end of the year, these reports shall be handed over to the Municipality of Prizren when the advocacy phase will start on the inclusion of the concerns and needs of the citizens at the municipal urban plans.

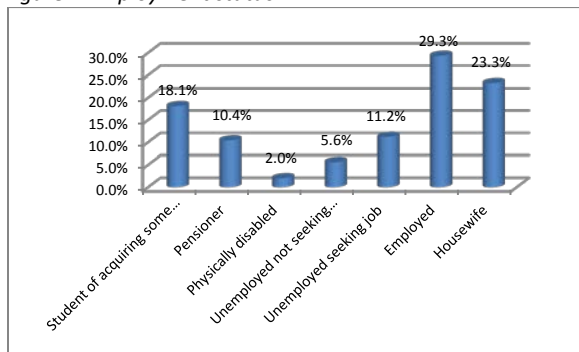
#### IV. Methodology

Survey sample has been selected by random sampling, selecting every fourth household. Initially, 12 data collecting point were determined in the city, in which points respondents were selected at random basis.

The results of the survey are introduced into two sections: one for the randomized sampling in the city of Prizren and, secondly, a sampling focused on different interest groups.

Of 249 respondents, 57.8% (n=144) were female and 42.2% were male. In terms of the age group 24.5% were from 16-25 years of age, 67.7% of 26-64 years of age and 10.8% were over 65 years of age. Broken down by ethnicity – 87.1% of the respondents were Albanians, 6.4% of RAE community, 3.6% Turks and 2.8% were Bosniaks.

Figure – Employment status



29.3% of respondents reported being employed, 23.3% are housewives, 11.2% are unemployed seeking job, 2% physically disabled, 10.4% retired and 18.1% are students or acquiring some kind of skill and 5.6% unemployed not seeking work.

242 interviews were conducted with these groups of population: representatives of youth organizations, activists, representatives of student organizations, culture and cultural heritage associations, women, employed women, housewives and the unemployed, associations of persons with special needs,

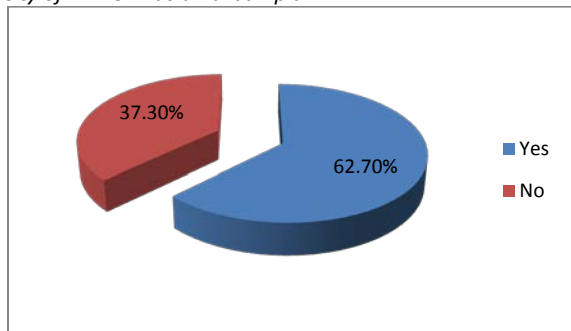
representatives of special schools, environmental organizations, sports associations, cultural and artistic societies, centres for social work, beneficiaries of social schemes and of the Red Cross of Kosova, retired and the representatives of associations of pensioners, the homeless, residents of neighbourhoods lacking a sewer system, registered unemployed at the employment centre and secondary school students.

V. Results

Results column is arranged according to the sampling where the first part introduces results of the randomized sampling and, the second one, the sampling with different interest groups.

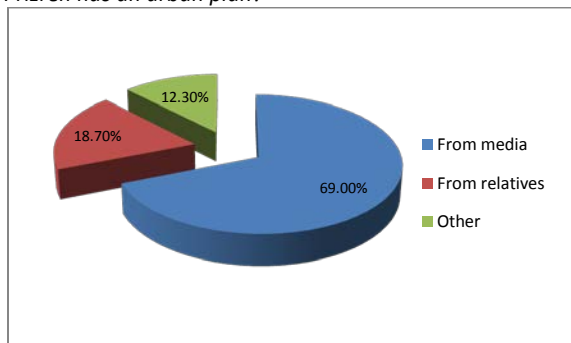
Results of the random sampling

Figure - Do you have knowledge/information whether the city of Prizren has an urban plan



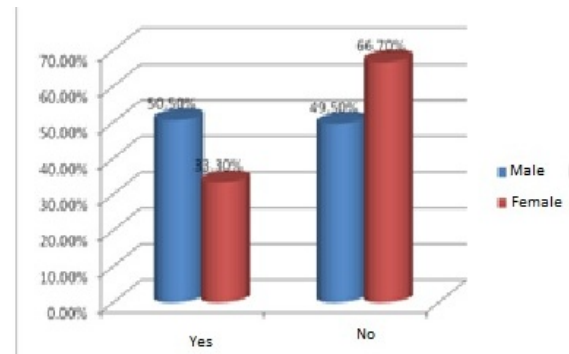
62.7% of respondents claimed to have knowledge/information that the city of Prizren has an urban plan.

Figure - From where did you get the information that Prizren has an urban plan?



From 155 (62.2%) respondents that have stated for having knowledge on Prizren having urban plan 69% of them have heard of it from the media, 18.7% from their relatives and 12.3% from other sources.

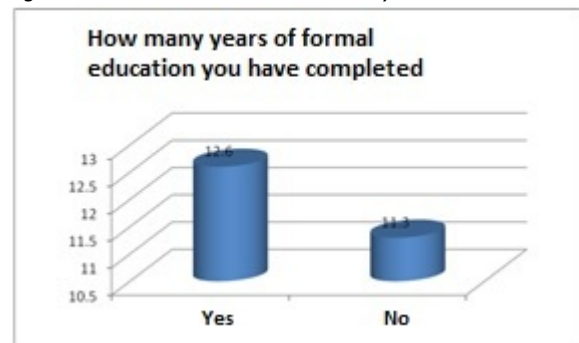
Figure - Do you have information whether citizens may participate in the drafting of various plans and regulations dealing with the city



$\chi^2(1,249)=7.4, p<0.01$

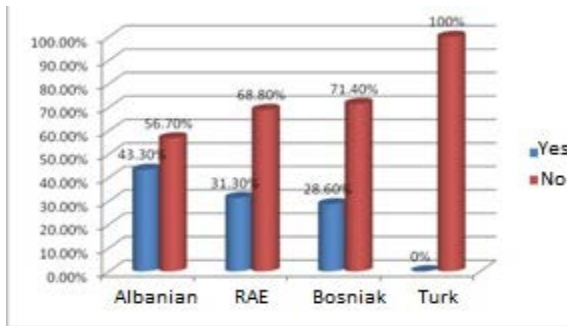
Males have reported at a higher percentage, with 50.5%, for having information that citizens can participate in the development of various plans and regulations that have to do with the city, whereas only 1/3 of female stated having information on this matter.

Figure - The average of years of education completed in relation to if they have information that citizens may participate in the development of various plans and regulations that have to do with the city



On average those who said they have information that citizens can participate in the development of various plans and regulations dealing with the city have a higher average of years of education completed compared to those who are not aware of this possibility.

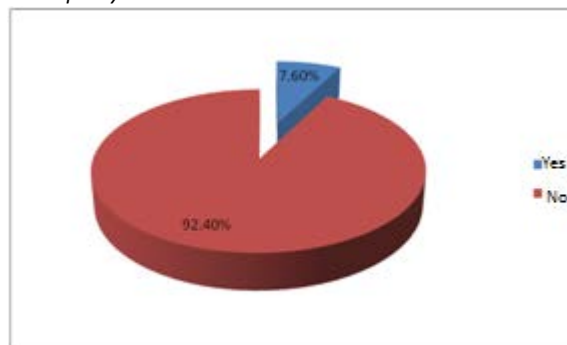
Figure – Information whether citizens can participate in the development of various plans and regulations that have to do with the city broken down by ethnicity



$\chi^2(3,249)=7.8, p<0.05$

Respondents of Albanian ethnicity have reported a higher level of percentage compared to other ethnicities of having knowledge that citizens can participate in public discussions of various urban designs dealing with the city.

Figure – Participated in public debates organized by the municipality



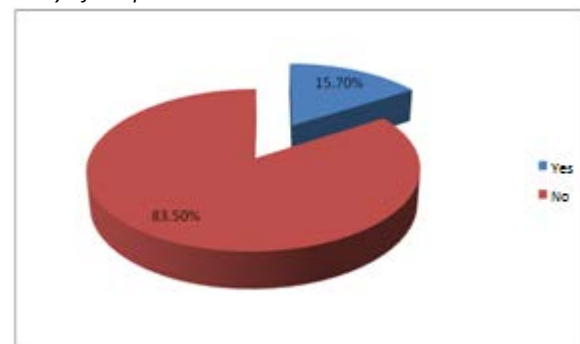
From the percentage of citizens who stated for being informed that the municipality organizes public debates, only 7.6% of them have stated they had taken part in some of them. Five (5) respondents indicated also the debates in which have taken part: on the education, on urban planning, for neighbourhood regulation, on road construction, on the riverbed, on new cemetery site and on Regulatory Plan.

Figure - How do you express your needs in report with municipal bodies



The majority of respondents or 61% said they contacted in person the municipal authorities, 30% of respondents declared they don't know how they can communicate their needs and only 6% stated they do this through different associations and organizations. Other forms of communication were through relatives or 3.6%, 4 of them said they did not communicate at all due to lack of trust, judicial bodies, through the head of the neighbourhood and petition.

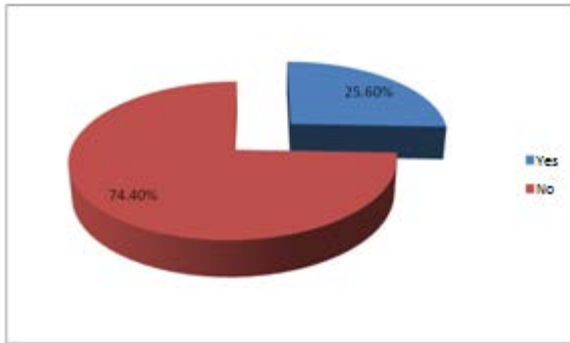
Figure - Were you invited by the municipal bodies in any of the public debates



Only 15.7% of respondents stated for having received an invitation from the municipal authorities on public debates on different issues of the city.

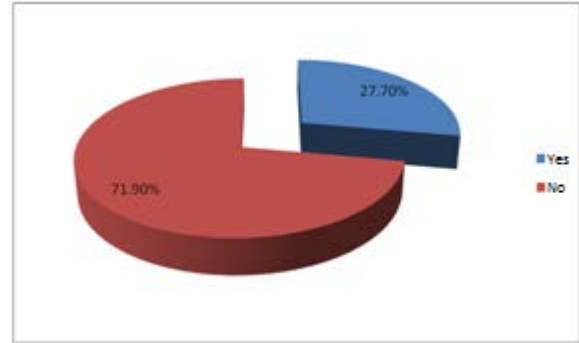
Figure – Of those who have received an invitation and participated in meetings





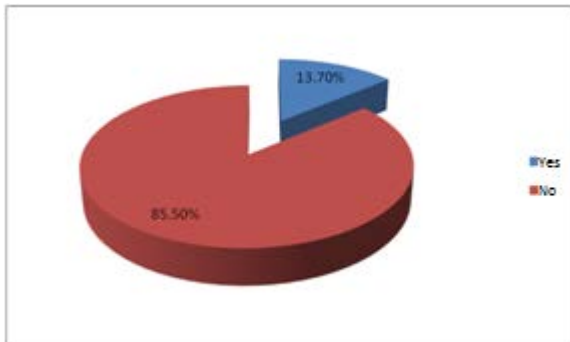
Out of 15.7% of respondents who received an invitation by the municipality for debates only 1/4 of them have participated in the meetings they were invited. 10 respondents who took part in these meetings have mentioned the following ones: on education, on RAE community, on waste management, on property regulation, on regulating the neighbourhoods, on the 'Farkatarët' street (*Blacksmiths Alley*), on women's rights and on domestic violence.

Figure - Were you invited by political parties in a public debate



27.7% of respondents have stated they were invited for a particular debate by political parties. 43.5% of those who have been invited at a public debate by political parties stated to have participated in the meetings called by political parties, while 56.5% said they did not take part. Of those who have mentioned the type of the meeting only one indicated to have been related to urban plan or urban planning.

Figure - Were you invited by civil society/NGOs at a public debate



13.7% of respondents stated they were invited by NGOs or civil society for a certain debate. Of those who have received an invitation for public debate by NGOs 41.2% stated to have participated in the meetings called by civil society and NGOs, while 58.8% said they did not attend. Of those who have mentioned the type of the meeting only four indicated to have been related to urban design or urban planning.

Figure - Percentage of citizens of Prizren active or inactive in different organizations

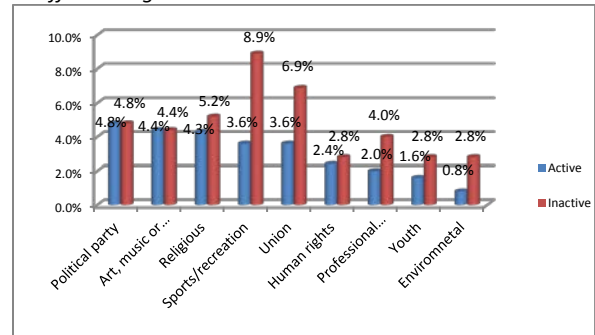
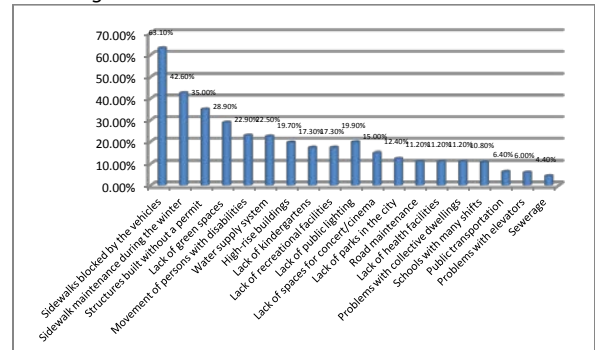
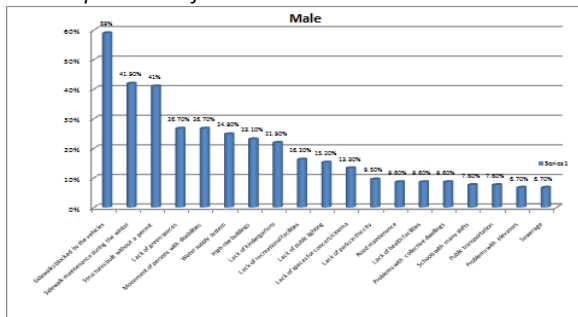


Figure - The main problems of urbanism in the city according to the citizens



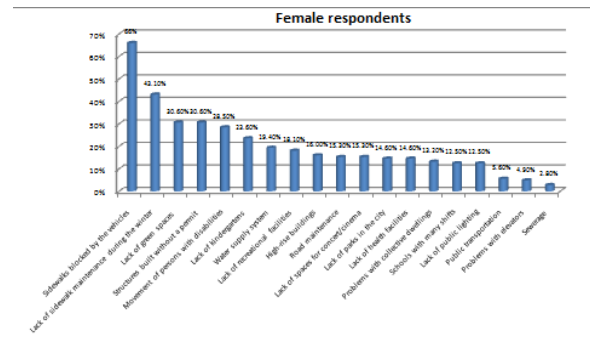
Citizens were given 20 different issues related to urbanism and the city in general, and then asked to choose 4 issues that must be tackled more seriously by municipal bodies. The analysis is made on all the options if mentioned as an issue by respondents. As an issue mentioned by more than half of respondents was on the sidewalks blocked by vehicles with 63.1%, the second issue mentioned was the need for sidewalk maintenance during the winter with 42.6%, structures built without a permit with 35% as a third issue, lack of green spaces with 29% as fourth, fifth issue was gruelling movement for people with disabilities, problems with water supply as a sixth issue and seventh the issue of high-rise buildings.

Figure - Main problems of urbanism in the city according to male respondents of Prizren



As an issue mentioned by more than half of the male respondents was the sidewalks blocked by vehicles with 59%, second was the lack of sidewalks upkeep during the winter with 41.9%, third issue on structures built without a permit with 28.7%, the lack of green spaces with 26.7% as fourth issue, water supply as fifth, construction of high-rise buildings as sixth and seventh was the lack of public lighting.

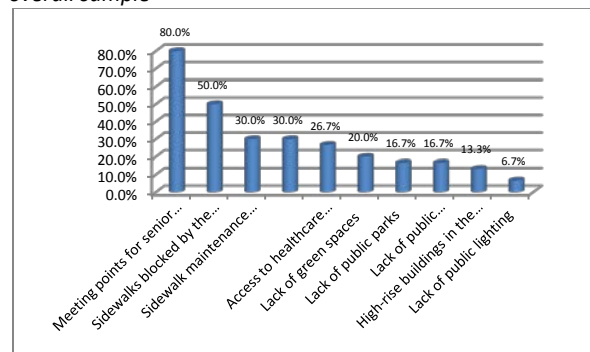
Figure - Main problems of urbanism in the city according to female respondents of Prizren



As an issue mentioned by more than half of female respondents was the sidewalks blocked by vehicles with 66%, the second was the lack of sidewalks upkeep during the winter with 43.1%, third issue on structures built without a permit with 30.6%, fourth was the lack of green spaces with 30.6%, movement troubles for the citizens with special needs as fifth, sixth issue was pinpointed the lack of kindergartens and water supply as a seventh prioritised issue.

12% of respondents of this total sample were over 65 years of age and these respondents, in addition to answering to the questions above, they have been asked to pick three key concerns from a set of urban issues relevant for this age group.

Figure - Key issues according to pensioners within the overall sample

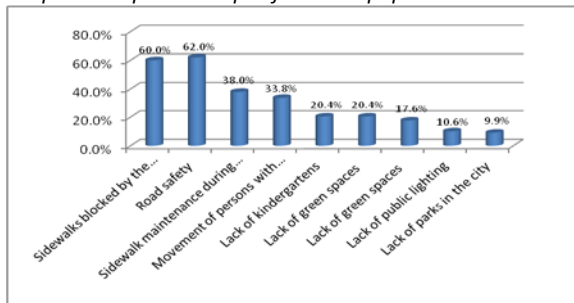


80% of respondents over the age of 65 consider as the first issue the lack of a space intended as a gathering point for senior citizens, 50% consider the blockage of sidewalks and with 30%

each the maintenance of sidewalks during the winter and structures built without permits.

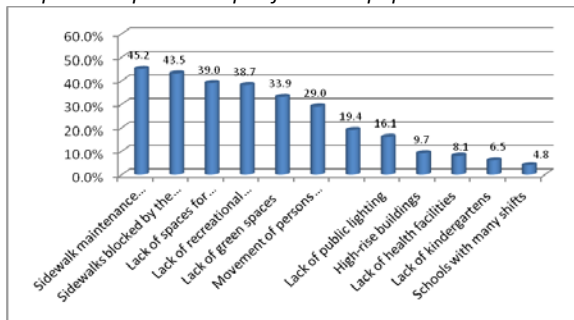
57% of the samples were females over the age of 16 and on designated questions for this sample as first issue the road safety was noted by 62%, blocking of sidewalks from vehicles with 60% as the second, and maintenance of sidewalks during the winter by 35% as the third issue.

Figure - Key issues according to females within the overall sample with questions specific to this population



From the overall sampling 24.9% were young people under the age of 26. Three key issues depicted by young people are in the following figure.

Figure - Key issues according to the youth within the overall sample with questions specific to this population

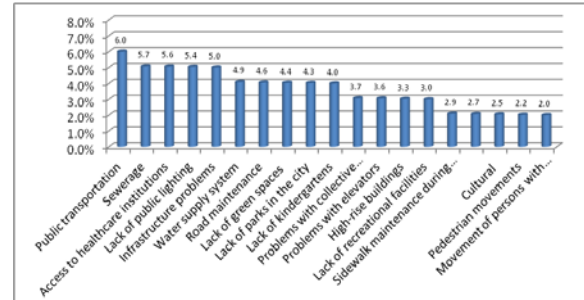


As the main issues that were mentioned in the survey is the maintenance of sidewalks in winter, secondly the sidewalks blocked by vehicles with 43.5%, the lack of functional premises with theatre/cinema followed by the fourth issue of the lack of recreational spaces.

Additional question was given to all the respondents on whether they are satisfied with

the work of the municipality on certain issues and they were asked to evaluate those items from 1 to 10. Below is the average rating for each item. Lower scores represent lowest approval ratings and the highest scores represent higher approval ratings.

Figure - The average approval rating from 1-10 on different issues for the whole sample



The lowest approval rating has been noted on what was done on the unhindered movement of persons with disabilities; secondly, on pedestrian free movement; thirdly, cultural spaces; fourthly, citizens are not satisfied with what was done on buildings without permits; and the fifth issue with the lowest average approval rating was given to the maintenance of sidewalks during the winter.

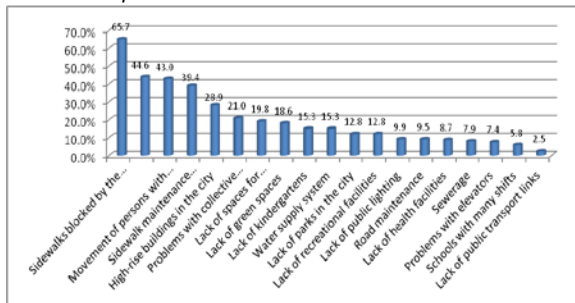
Results of the sample with groups of interests

The results presented are classified by organizations of culture and cultural heritage, pensioners, women (the part which was completed by all female respondents except from the representatives of women’s associations), the youth, organizations.

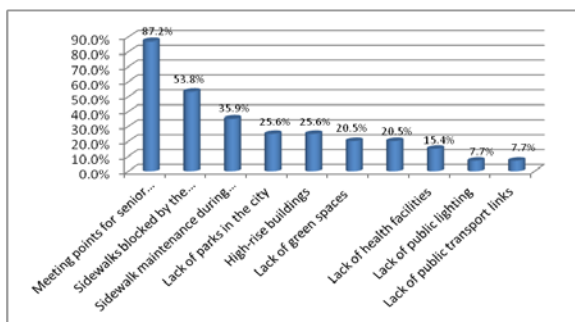
Of 242 respondents representatives of different organizations, beneficiaries of social schemes, employed and unemployed youth, employed and unemployed women and pensioners have given five main issues as following: vehicles blocking the sidewalks with 65.7%;

constructions built without permits with 44.5 %; circulation problems for persons with disabilities with 43%; lack of maintenance of sidewalks during the winter with 38.4% and high-rise buildings in the city with 29%.

Figure – Main issues according to respondents of various organizations, beneficiaries of social schemes, employed and unemployed young people, employed and unemployed women and pensioners

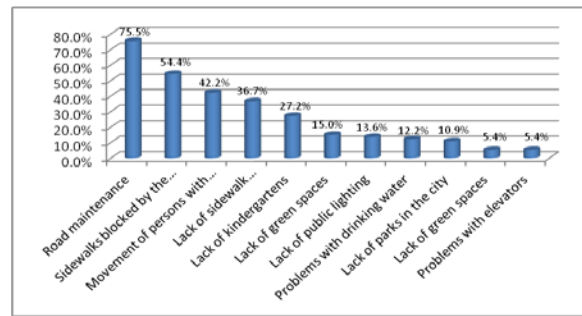


In the second sample were interviewed 39 pensioners and representatives of pensioners' association and the findings or 5 main issues for them are: the lack of meeting venues/recreational spaces for retired with 87.2%; the blockage of sidewalks from vehicles with 53.8%; the lack of maintenance of sidewalks during the winter with 35.9%; the lack of public parks with 25.6% and high-rise buildings in the city with 25.6%.



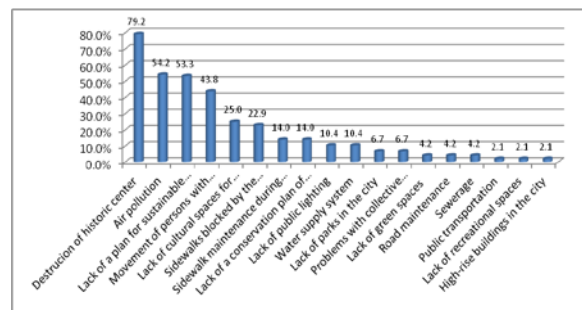
The section on women's main issues was completed by 147 respondents as the representatives of women's organizations, pensioners, housewives, employed women, students, unemployed women, beneficiaries of

social schemes, etc. As the most frequently mentioned issue has been the road safety for women with 75.5%, followed then with sidewalks blocked by the vehicles with 54.4%, mobility problems of persons with disabilities with 42.2%, lack of sidewalk maintenance during the winter with 36.7% and the lack of public kindergartens with 27.2%.



The results with cultural organizations

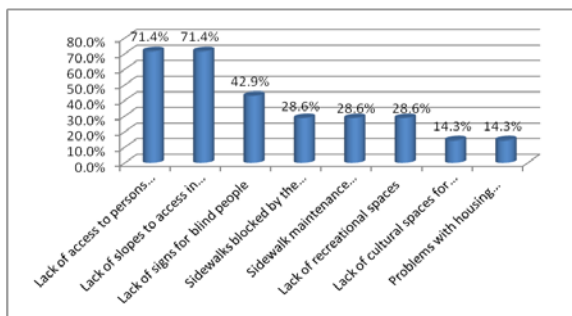
48 representatives of cultural organizations or those dealing with cultural heritage were interviewed (in some organizations more than one member have been interviewed).



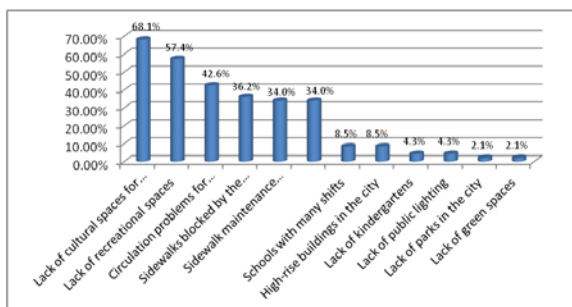
Four main issues brought forth by the representatives of cultural organizations or those dealing with cultural heritage were, firstly, the destruction of the historic centre of the city which has been entered as a priority in 79.2% of organizations, followed then with the air pollution with 54.2%, lack of sustainable environmental development plan with 53.3%, mobility problems for persons with disabilities with 43.8%.

### Organizations working with persons with special needs

In total, 7 organizations have been interviewed and the main problems reported by these organizations was as follows: 71.4% noted as a major problem the hindered accessibility in public transportation of persons with disabilities, the lack of ramps to public institutions with 71.4%, lack of signs for persons of impaired sight with 42.9% and blocked sidewalks with 28.6% as a fourth issue.



47 young people, representatives of youth organizations, representatives of students, employed and unemployed young people have identified the following as key issues: the lack of cultural premises for concerts and cinemas with 68.1%, the lack of recreational premises with 57.4%, mobility problems for persons with disabilities with 42.6% and vehicles blocking the sidewalks with 36.2%.



## VI. Conclusion

Results above can be condensed in three main problems identified by the citizens of Prizren:

**Information and citizen participation** – From the first research sample it is noted that the citizens of Prizren are aware of existing of urban plans and receive information on those mainly from the media.

Dissemination of information related to the city's development plans and strategies through the media is often insufficient and incomplete. The municipality should insist on undertaking awareness campaigns and dissemination of information through materials (posters, flyers, SMS and informative email, etc.) and on the organization of information meetings with focus groups of smaller administrative units (e.g. neighbourhood councils, collective dwelling councils, etc.). Focus groups should gather various groups of interest, of different ages, without overlooking the children, youth, pensioners, employed and unemployed women, ethnic communities, etc.

**Women's safety and equal right to the city** – According to research findings it appears that women are less informed about urban plans and issues related to the city in general. The main concern of inclusive urban planning is the equal right to enjoy public spaces of the city by women, without obstacles, difficulties and fear. Women's safety in the city is a matter of research and approach in several publications of international agencies (UN-Habitat), universities in Europe, Asia and Australia.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup><http://www.femmesetvilles.org/index.php/en/publications> (accessed on 02.09.2013);  
<http://www.abp.unimelb.edu.au/research/gender-inclusive-cities> (accessed on 02.09.2013);

Therefore, the municipality should empower the role of women in processes related to urban planning and to tackle all the aspects related to the unhindered use of the city. The municipality needs to be resolute in meeting face-to-face with women focus groups of all educational backgrounds, employed and unemployed, from the early stages of coining the vision and strategy for the development of any part of the city. These focus groups should be situated as an important pillar to citizen participation in city planning.

An inclusive city promotes development through equal participation, where all, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion and gender, are empowered and enabled to participate fully in planning and decision-making. A comprehensive planning and governance would have an impact in: reduction of inequalities and decrease of social tensions; inclusion of knowledge, productivity, social and physical resources of the poor and the marginalized in the city development and planning.

From the research sample turns out that the members of Bosniak, Turk and RAE communities remain underprivileged compared to the Albanian majority in this regard. The level of these communities lack of information is extremely high and very disturbing. From the data acquired it appears that the municipality should be more engaged in the information in the languages of these communities, in face-to-face meetings in mixed and individual focus groups and needs to do more for their integration and addressing issues of their concerns and interests in relation to the city.

**Concerns of citizens regarding urban infrastructure and the quality of life aspects of the city** – In the second sample of the research

are handled more specific infrastructure and the quality of life matters in the city. The most acute issue from the answers obtained from all the stakeholders are associated with being pedestrian and on the free movement in the city. Hampered movement on the sidewalks because of the parked vehicles and in difficult weather conditions, from the snow not cleaned up. In the group of issues related to the movement in the city are inserted the problems of the lack of infrastructure for people with disabilities; road safety problems, which although not specified in the questionnaire, may be an endangered movement caused by vehicular traffic; safety from crime; women's safe movement free of harassment and annoyance of a sexual nature, etc.

One of the predominant trends in urban design of the city for over 30 years is to promote the free movement of pedestrians and cyclists throughout the city, as well as to reduce vehicular traffic in the centres and other areas that are more fitting for the gathering of the citizens. An example of such development is the city of Copenhagen, which through the initiative of the urban planner Jan Gehl, since the late '70s, began removing vehicular traffic from the centre and promoting bicycle-oriented movement. This is an approach for the municipality of Prizren to turn to in cooperation with citizens.

Another concern prevailing among the citizens of Prizren, based on this research, is a free space and public premises. Stakeholders made of pensioners from the key problems in the city consider the lack of their meeting venue and the lack of parks. Whereas the youth in the first place see the lack of spaces and facilities for cultural events. Municipality of Prizren, in

addition to promoting the pedestrian and bicycle movement in the city, and expanding the street and pathways network, would have to provide the creation of venues, public spaces of different sizes, parks and green areas and cultural and leisure spaces. These all are indispensable features of a sustainable city. Strangely enough, one of the less disturbing issues to the citizens of Prizren turns out the public transportation. This suggests that most of them use personal vehicles as a mode of transport for short and long distances within the city. In a city with a population of 177,000 inhabitants is more than necessary an extensive public transportation network that will facilitate short distance movements but also the shuttle from neighbouring villages to the city. The municipality could take steps for the establishment of such network, with buses and minibuses that would use 'green energy' and that would free the sidewalks and streets from parked vehicles, and at the same time will affect to easing of one of the major concerns of the citizens of Prizren – air pollution.

Conclusion: Promoting inclusiveness in the city is not only a matter of social righteousness, but also the central pillar of sustainable urban development. Participatory planning helps in finding solutions which can be integrated into urban development projects for tackling the problems and concerns of everyone and by this to improve urban governance. During the inclusive planning, work with different groups of interest brings out mechanisms and produces tools that solve issues within the community, which could then easily be adapted to be utilized and implemented in specific urban projects.

## EC Ma Ndryshe

Organizata jo-qeveritare “Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe” u themelua në mars të vitit 2006. Qëllimet kryesore të organizatës janë: promovimi i qytetarisë aktive dhe pjesëmarrëse dhe ngritja e vetëdijes qytetare për mbrojtjen dhe kultivimin e trashëgimisë kulturore. EC Ma Ndryshe është ndër themelueset dhe përfaqëson Kosovën në Rrjetin e Evropës Juglindore të organizatave që merren me trashëgimi kulturore – SEE Heritage Network. Gjithashtu, është themeluese e Forumit të Trashëgimisë Kulturore të Prizrenit, Rrjetit të Organizatave Kulturore të Prizrenit dhe Rrjetit të Organizatave të Pavarura të Kulturës në Kosovë – Forumi Kulturor. EC Ma Ndryshe, që nga themelimi më 2006 është duke ushtruar presion direkt ndaj qeverisë lokale në Prizrenit për të krijuar qasje shoqërisë civile dhe qytetarëve për bashkë vendimmarrje. Përveç pjesëmarrjes direkte në proceset e konsultimeve publike, EC Ma Ndryshe ka avokuar rregullisht për respektimin e obligimeve ligjore për konsultime publike, përfshirjen sa më të gjerë komunitare në konsultime publike dhe përfshirjen e shqetësimeve dhe kërkesave të komunitetit në dokumentet e politikave publike.

*Projektet kryesore:* Urbanism Watch – urbanizmi i Prizrenit nën vëzhgim të përhershëm (2013 – 2015), Pjesëmarrja qytetare përmes medias sociale në Prizren dhe Gjiilan (2013 – 2014), Qyteti gjithëpërfshirës – planifikimi me pjesëmarrje për zhvillim të qëndrueshëm urban në Prizren (2013 – 2015), Trashëgimia kulturore, shtyllë qendrore për zhvillim të qëndrueshëm lokal dhe rajonal në Prizren (2013 – 2014), Vullnetarët e Kulturës (2012 – 2013), Pjesëmarrja qytetare në hartimin dhe zbatimin e politikave kulturore në komunën e Prizrenit (2012 – 2013), Transparenca online e komunës së Prizrenit dhe Mamushës (2012 – 2014), Roli i shoqërisë civile në promovimin e trashëgimisë kulturore (projekt rajonal) 2011 – 2013, Një përrallë ballkanike, trashëgimia otomane në Ballkan (projekt rajonal) (2011 – 2013), Ngritja e vetëdijes kulturore tek të rinjtë përmes dokumentarëve (2010), Forcimi i veprimtari qytetar për promovim dhe mbrojtje të trashëgimisë kulturore (2009), Platforma “Culture 2013” (2008 – 2009), Kampet e Restaurimit (2007, 2008 & 2009), Forumet e Hapura Qytetare (2007), Ditët e Trashëgimisë Evropiane në Kosovë (2006, 2007 & 2008), Zambaku i Prizrenit 2006.

*Publikimet:* Kush mbikëqyr mbikëqyrësit – llogaridhënia e shoqërisë civile në Kosovë (2013), Rinia dhe Transparenca – të përjashtuar apo të injoruar? (2013), Planifikim urban për qytetarët (2013), “Prizreni qytet kulturor”, film dokumentar (2013), Pjesëmarrja qytetare në hartimin e politikave kulturore në Prizren (2013), Gabim pas gabimi – analizë mbi gabimet e panumërta dhe të vazhdueshme në trashëgimi kulturore (2013), Katër analiza të projektit “Online Trasparenca”: 1. Degradimi Natyror dhe Urbanistik, 2. Respektimi i ligjit në qeverisjen lokale, 3. Qeverisja e mirë nuk është fjalë goje, 4. Transparenca e qeverisjes lokale në Prizren (2012 – 2013), Silent Balkan, film dokumentar i projektit “A Balkan Tale” (2012), Jeta kulturore në komunën e Prizrenit (në bashkëpunim me Teatrin ODA) (2010-2011), Prizreni në Retrovizore, krahasim i fotografive të vjetra dhe të reja të Prizrenit (2009), Vullnetarizmi dhe Trashëgimia Kulturore (2009), Intervenimi me kosto të ultë (2009), Dokument Strategjik mbi Organizimin e Ditëve të Trashëgimisë Evropiane në Kosovë (2008), Trashëgimia Kulturore dhe Turizmi Kulturor në Prizren (2008), Hapësirat Kulturore në Kosovë (në bashkëpunim me Teatrin ODA) (2008).