



**Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDARYSHE**

16 maj 2018, Prizren

Reaction

Building values are ascertained by cultural heritage authorities

The Municipality of Prizren in the clarification made on 15.05.2018 regarding the demolition of old houses with damaged static on the streets of the city has highlighted the reaction of EC Ma Ndryshe, by extracting only the section which states that "the officials of the Regional Center of Cultural Heritage in Prizren, have not been part of the value evaluation process of these buildings."

In this public communication, the Municipality of Prizren has informed that it has sent an invitation by e-mail and has not received back any answer from RCCH, while added that at the meeting held by this committee none of the representatives of RCCH appeared. Also, the Municipality has stated that in the meeting with the director of the RCCH has received an answer that this institution has no human capacity to participate in this process.

First, the tendency of the Municipality of Prizren to reduce the process of estimating the values of old buildings to the technical issue of participation or non-participation of RCCH officials at a meeting of a municipal body is an approach that needs to change, similar as well as the manner of communication so far related to these issues.

Secondly, the Municipality of Prizren intentionally or not in its clarification has not referred to the rest of EC reaction paragraph, which states that: "According to the legislation MCYS, respectively RCCH constitutes the only competent authority for assessment of heritage assets, in which case it should be remembered that the updating of the temporary list of protected monuments is a dynamic and continuous process. Therefore, the finding by the municipal bodies of the lack of values of these buildings is ungrounded and unlawful, for the fact that RCCH is not included in decision-making. "

EC recalls that in the first announcement of the Municipality of Prizren it states that: "Their selection (old and depleted buildings that are being demolished) has also been influenced by the fact that the buildings in question have no cultural heritage values and are not found in the Historic Center of Prizren ". This is another problem, because the municipal bodies do not give estimates on the values of old buildings, as the legislation has defined the MCYS and its subordinate bodies (RCCH) as institutions that have responsibilities and competencies in this regard. Therefore, if the RCCH did not attend the meeting of the municipal body (the relevant Commission) or even if it rejected it, then the Municipality should have communicated with MCYS on this issue as well.

Apart from communicating with MCYS and its bodies regarding the list of buildings predetermined for demolition, the Municipality of Prizren should have published the reports of the relevant Commission,

its decisions together with justifications, so that the wide public to be familiar with the decision-making on this issue, in line with the commitments of the municipal leadership for radical transparency.

EC considers that the Municipality may have arguments that its action was necessary for the sake of citizens' safety, but nevertheless reiterates the view that building values can be ascertained only by cultural heritage authorities and not by municipal bodies.

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