



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

*7 maj 2018, Prizren*

**Press release**

**The Municipal Transparency Reform Index for 2017 is published**

EC Ma Ndryshe has published the Municipal Transparency Reform Index, which outlines the results for 13 relevant indicator groups that show the level of transparency during 2017 in the municipalities of Prishtina, Prizren, Ferizaj, Peja, Gjilan, Gjakova, Mitrovica as and Rahovec, Vushtrri, Malishevë, Suhareka, Klina, Dragash, Shtërpçë and Mamusha.

In the Municipal Transparency Reform Index for the January-December 2017 monitoring period, it appears that the municipalities of Prishtina and Gjakova constitute the first group of transparent municipalities with 68 per cent, respectively 64 per cent of the assessment, then comes Gjilan with 56 per cent and Peja with 54 per cent, followed by Mitrovica with 48 per cent, Prizren with 42 per cent and Ferizaj with 41 per cent. Municipalities that are not regional centers are led by Rahovec and Vushtrri with 53 respectively 51 percent, Malisheva with 46 percent, Suhareka 43 percent, Klina 39 percent, Shtërpçë 37 percent, Dragash 32 percent, and Mamusha with 26 percent .

Groups of indicators that are monitored and on which this Index is compiled are: Chairman, Directors and Members of the Assembly, Organization and Functioning, Work of Policy Making and Decision-Making Bodies, Combating Misconduct and Misuse, European Integration, Accounting and Budget, Public Procurement Contracts, Supply and Grants, Employees in Public Administration and Public Organizations / Institutions, Capital and Non-Capital Assets, Citizen Information and Services, Cooperation with Civil Society, Urban Planning and Monitoring Urban Projects. Full index content can be read on the link: <http://online-transparency.org/index/>

Compared to the results of 2016, it emerges that 10 municipalities during 2017 marked an increase in transparency, albeit with a small percentage. In 2 municipalities (Shtërpçë and Mamushë) no progress was recorded, so the percentage remained the same, while in 3 municipalities (Gjakova, Ferizaj and Klina) there was a decrease in the percentage of the cause of the technical problems that according to municipal officials are the responsibility of MLGA and not the municipalities).

The issue of the occasional failure of official municipal websites, especially in the last part of the year, has posed a challenge to the transparency of local government. At the same time, 2017 has been challenging for transparency because of the municipal elections, which had a negative impact on this aspect, especially in the second half of the year.

Generally, transparency in combating abuses, public procurement, municipal property management, then urban planning and monitoring urban plans remain significant challenges for municipalities, which should be addressed out by municipal leadership of the fall elections of the past year.

Meanwhile, more encouraging results are in terms of transparency of the work of policymaking and decision-making bodies, budget transparency, then information and service of citizens and cooperation with civil society. However, in certain municipalities, these indicators also require a commitment to increase the level of transparency, in order to further approximate the local government with the citizen.

An observation of the Index monitors was that after the interviews conducted with the municipalities; there was generally a positive progress in the publication of certain information and documents, which according to EC should continue to be applied, together with increasing the sense of accountability against the public by leadership and municipal officials.

Index is an effort of EC to ensure greater transparency at the municipal level by thoroughly investigating the current problems of transparency and accountability of municipalities, providing assessments or marks for these problems. The index provides support to municipalities in understanding the issues for meeting the standards of good governance and increasing accountability to the public.

The project "Municipal Transparency Reform Index", has been initiated by EC Ma Ndryshe since May 2015 and is extended to the municipalities of: Prishtinë, Prizren, Pejë, Mitrovicë, Gjilan, Ferizaj, Gjakovë, Suharekë, Rahovec, Malishevë, Dragash, Mamushë, Shtërpçë, Vushtrri and Klinë. The project in question aims to assist municipalities in identifying key deficiencies in terms of transparency as well as providing guidance on addressing and overcoming them.

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