

SUMMARY ANALYSIS
Transparency of local governance in Prizren
July 2012, Prizren

CONTENT

I. Executive summary	2
II. Transparency in local governance.....	4
III. Transparency assessment in Prizren Municipality	6
Regulation on transparency	6
Access to public documents.....	7
Municipal official website	7
Meetings of the mayor with the directors.....	8
Oversight of mayoral operations.....	8
Citizen participation in decision-making.....	9
IV. Recommendations	11
V. “Online Transparency of Prizren Municipality” Project	12
VI. References	13
EC Ma Ndryshe.....	14

This analysis has been produced in the framework of the “Online transparency of Prizren Municipality” project, funded by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local governance in Prizren suffers from scores of structural shortcomings. Transparency, as a fundamental principle of good governance, certainly ranks on the top of this list. Recently, the importance of coining transparency in local level, as a tool for addressing some of the greatest challenges for sustainable development and democracy, is being increasingly understood. This brief analysis assesses the transparency in the Municipality of Prizren through following segments: Regulation on transparency, access to public documents, the municipal official webpage, meetings of the mayor with the directors, oversight of mayoral operations and citizens' participation in decision-making.

Regulation on Transparency of Prizren Municipality, in its core structure adopted by the Municipal Assembly, is completely non-binding for the mayor and municipal executive. Hence, such regulation, where responsibilities of municipal executive are not specified, represents a deliberate dodging from responsibility and accountability. Moreover, it reduces the transparency solely to Municipal Assembly. With the existing content of this Regulation, not only the municipal transparency shall not be promoted, but contrariwise – it shall grant mayor with a strong alibi in being pardoned from criticisms for the lack of transparency.

Another stumbling block of good governance in Prizren Municipality is non-adherence to the Law on Access to Public Documents. According to reports of the enquiry organizations, the municipal level, in the matter of access to public documents, remains in a pitfall; whereas Prizren Municipality ranks quite low in this assessment. Moreover, the municipal website contains only formal information, whilst it contains only the decisions adopted in their final form. This practice is contrary to democratic governance

required for coining opportunities for citizen participation and influence in decision-making during the policy-making process.

Yet, by means of a controversial decision and extremely detrimental to local democracy, incumbent mayor has closed the doors to his meetings with the municipal directors (formerly known as Board of Directors) for the public. Closed meetings, where important decisions on the expenditure of the municipal budget are brought, have raised many doubts on the capability of municipal executive to properly manage with public funds. Audit Report of the year 2011 had revealed that Prizren Municipality violates the principles of good governance in relation to public money.

One of the shortcomings identified is the defective administration with municipal assets. Civil society and opposition in Prizren, on many occasions, have pointed their finger at the mayor for seizing the Municipal Assembly's competencies, particularly on the decisions for administering with municipal property. When it comes in taking punitive actions towards the law-breaching mayors, there are rare cases when the local or central authorities of Kosovo have done so. Prizren is among the municipalities with the largest number of officials investigated by the District Prosecutor's Office and EULEX for the abuse of office.

Citizens of Prizren municipality remain excluded from local policy-making and their inclusion in the process of consultation is extremely rare or barely formal. To date, the mechanisms of direct democracy foreseen in the Law on Local Self-Government and the Statute of Prizren Municipality remain an untapped opportunity in the municipality of Prizren. On the other side, the Municipality of Prizren is demonstrating total incapacity in involving the citizens in decision-making through public

consultations, public meetings, participatory budgeting and consultative committees.

In order to address the shortcomings identified in this analysis, we recommend the following:

- Amendment of Regulation on Transparency,
- Withdrawal of the mayor's decision on his closed meetings with the directors,
- Undertaking of punitive measures towards municipal officials who contravene the Law on Access to Public Documents,
- Publicizing of all acts in their preliminary and final form on the municipality's webpage,
- Amendments to the Law on Local Self-Government in view of overseeing the Mayor's operations,
- More determined commitment of the Ministry of Local Government for supervision of legality in Prizren Municipality,
- Promotion of citizen participation mechanisms,
- Increasing the number of CSOs monitoring the local governance,
- Substantial inclusion of citizens in the draft of annual budget of the municipality,
- Regular media reporting on all undertakings that contravene the transparency,
- Investigation by the District Prosecutor's Office of all the reported cases of malpractice,
- Re-establishment of Municipal Information Office, and
- Set up of the Research and Public Opinion Office.

II. TRANSPARENCY IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Over the past decade, the focus on transparency, as an aspect of improving the governance and combating corruption, had been centred at the national level which is mainly connected with the global trends of pluralism, democratization and governance improvement. In that perspective, this is comprehensible, since the corruption – as the most conspicuous consequence of the lack of transparency – is often more tangible in central level and due to the fact that legislative, executive and judicial institutions have been traditionally a point of reference in combating the corruption. Recently though, there has been a change in the course of increasing the transparency at the local level. The importance of building local transparency, as a tool for addressing some of the greatest challenges for the sustainable development and democracy, is increasingly being contemplated.

There are two fundamental aspects of governance (and good governance as well). Firstly, the concept of governance is broader than Government. In the urban context, this means that the responsibility for managing a city's affairs is not limited to the local government solely, but it includes a wide range of stakeholders including: central and local government, the private sector, civil society and community-based organizations, the media, professional associations and other members of civil society. Secondly, the concept of governance focuses on institutions and

processes. In the context of scarce resources, competing, but valid, priorities should be set through processes that involve all stakeholders in decision-making. This retains important implications for developing a framework for promoting transparency at the municipal level. Transparency in decision-making processes and institutions has the potential to become a central strategy for engaging stakeholders, combating corruption and improving the quality of urban governance overall.

Therefore, transparency represents the fundamental principle of good governance. The free access to information plays an important role in promoting transparency. Information, therefore, should be provided in time, be relevant, accurate and complete if being used effectively. The question of who produces what information, and for what purpose, becomes key matter of transparency when competing interests converge on a particular matter. One of the most cutting edge patterns for ensuring the transparency is a five point framework for the increase of transparency: 1. Assessment and monitoring, 2. Access to information, 3. Ethics and integrity, 4. Institutional reforms; and 5. Targeting specific issues.

Strategies and Tools to Support Transparency in Local Governance

STRATEGIES	Assessment and Monitoring	Access to information and public participation	Promoting ethics, professionalism and integrity	Institutional reforms
TOOLS	The Municipal checklist	Public meetings	Conflict of Interest Laws	Complaints and Ombudsman Office
	The Urban Corruption Survey	Open Meeting Laws	Disclosure of Income and Assets	Municipal Front Office
	The Municipal Vulnerability Assessment	Access to Information Laws	Lobbyist Registration	One Stop Shop for getting all services in one place
	Participatory Corruption Appraisal	Records Management and Computerization	Whistle Blower Protection	Oversight Committees
	Report Cards	E-Government	The Integrity Pact	Independent Audit Function
	Proof	Trainings for journalists	Code of Ethics	Independent Anti-Corruption Agencies
		Public Education Tools	Ethical Campaign Practices	Participatory Budgeting
		Public Participation in Decision-making	Ethics Training	

Source: *Transparency International and UN Habitat, Tools to Support Transparency in Local Governance, 2004*

III. TRANSPARENCY ASSESSMENT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRIZREN

This brief analysis assesses the transparency in Prizren Municipality, as one of the core pillars of good governance and democracy in local level. Sections by which transparency in the Municipality of Prizren is assessed are: Regulation on transparency, access to public documents, the official website, meetings of the mayor with the directors, oversight of mayoral operations, citizen participation in decision-making (public consultations, meetings with the public, participatory budgeting, advisory boards).

Regulation on Transparency

In February 2012 Municipal Assembly of Prizren adopted the Regulation on Transparency.¹ This was one of the long-lasting unmet legal requirements of the Municipality of Prizren. Law on Local Self-Government, Article 68.4 commits the municipal assemblies in adopting municipal regulation promoting the transparency of the legislative, executive and administrative bodies of the municipalities, enhancing the public participation in local decision-making, and facilitating the public access to municipal official documents.² In order to enforce this statutory requirement, the Ministry of Local Government Administration has also issued an Administrative Instruction on Transparency in Municipalities.³ This administrative instruction regulates the participation of the public in the meetings of the municipal assembly and its mandatory committees, meetings with the public, the obligation of municipalities for public

announcements, public consultations prior to adopting municipal legal acts, participation of the public in decision-making, access to official documents and the maintenance of official website. This provision of the Law on Local Self-Government and respective Administrative Instruction explicitly foresee the responsible municipal bodies which assume the responsibility for promoting municipal transparency. In addition, Purpose Clause for promulgation of Regulation on Transparency of Prizren Municipality states the willingness for, “strengthening the transparency in the operations of municipal bodies: Municipal Assembly and the Mayor of Municipality, Administration bodies... and enhancing the participation of citizens and CSOs in local decision-making.”⁴ Despite these formulations and the clear legal requirements, Regulation on Transparency of the Municipality of Prizren failed to include the most substantial component for transparent governance. Specifically, the main defect is the fact that Regulation, in a structure adopted by the Municipal Assembly, is entirely non-compulsory for the mayor and municipal executive branch. The mayor of municipality is mentioned only in the section of the public meetings that is foreseen to be held twice a year. Yet, within this provision, the mayor is given the possibility of authorizing a representative to substitute him/her in these meetings. Although Article 2 of the Scope Clause sets out the requirements of municipal bodies for consultations in view of municipal acts and the public’s participation in decision-making,⁵ the following formulation of Regulation lacks the definition of responsibilities of the mayor and municipal executive for these segments of governance. This is substantiated by the fact that Article 8 on the Public Consultation on

¹ Municipal Assembly of Prizren, Regulation on Transparency, February 2012, Prizren

² Official Gazette of Kosovo, Law no. 03/L-040 on Local Self-Government, adopted on 20 February 2008

³ Ministry of Local Government Administration, Administrative Instruction No. 2008/09 on the Transparency in Municipalities, 15 July 2008

⁴ Municipal Assembly of Prizren, Regulation on Transparency, Article 1 – Purpose

⁵ Municipal Assembly of Prizren, Regulation on Transparency, Article 2 – Scope

Municipal Acts, only the municipal assembly is obligated to convene consultations with the citizens.⁶ Undetermined responsibilities of the mayor and the municipal executive on transparent governance, makes this Regulation as a non-binding to the executive. Given the current system of local government – with central political and executive role of the mayor – municipal transparency is practically entirely dependent on the will of the executive. Therefore, adoption of Regulation on Transparency, without exacts definition of the responsibilities of municipal executive (especially for the Mayor), represents a intended getaway from responsibility and accountability, decorous adherence to a legal requirement and shrinking the transparency at Municipal Assembly only. With such content of this Regulation, not only municipal transparency shall not be promoted, but quite the reverse—the mayor will establish a strong excuse for acquittal from criticism for the lack of transparency.

Access to public documents

For the most part, requests for access to official documents or information are mainly submitted from civil society organizations and the media. The common practice is the providence of public document or official information the day before or the day of expiry of the foreseen deadline on the access to public documents. In cases when requested sensitive information, particularly on those related to public finances and the municipal budget, delays beyond the foreseen deadline and non-granting the reply are not an uncommon practice. From the discussions with journalists and monitors of local governance, it was understood that Prizren Municipality, in many occasions, has breached the Law on

Access to Public Documents.⁷ Often, the rationale of municipal officials for the delays and non-response is related – according to them – to “the vague and general nature” of requests submitted from civil society and the media.

Assigned officer of the municipality for receiving application requests for access to official documents or information almost never establishes a communication with the applying party, in order to avoid possible uncertainties arising. Furthermore, failure to provide information required within the legal deadline, regardless of the circumstances, is a breach of law. While the only circumstance for the refusal of information is the “classified documents” clause (foreseen in the law), and since Prizren Municipality, to this day, did not classify any document; any obstruction to citizens for having access to official documents and information is a violation of law, which should bear specific consequences for the municipality. So far, any sanctioning action against a municipal official whatsoever, who acted contrary to the Law on Access to Public Documents, has been taken. According to a survey from the Center for Policies and Advocacy, the worst situation in the area of access to public documents is at the municipal level, and the municipality of Prizren ranks in rather low levels of this assessment.⁸ Nonetheless, disturbing is the fact that the number of applications for access to public documents is comparatively small.

Municipal official website

Online communication with the citizen is a section in its initial phase of development as the website of Prizren Municipality contains in its most part only formal information. This website lacks information on the decisions and work

⁶ Municipal Assembly of Prizren, Regulation on Transparency, Article 8 – Public Consultation on Municipal Acts

⁷ Official Gazette of Kosovo, Law No. 03/L-215 on Access to Public Documents, adopted on 7 October 2010

⁸ Center for Policies and Advocacy, *Implementation of the Law on Access to Public Documents*, February 2012

reports, and provides limited access to public documents of the municipality. What is more, online application for civil documentation remains to be wished for sometimes in the future. The webpage of Prizren Municipality appears as a good potential for increasing municipal transparency. However, Prizren Municipality is largely inert in posting relevant information about the decision-making in the website. In most cases the webpage contains decisions adopted in their final form. This practice is contrary to the requirements of democratic governance, which requires coining of opportunities for public participation and influence in decision-making during the process of policy-making. Prizren Municipality fails in publishing of municipal acts in their preliminary form at the webpage of the municipality. This represents another serious obstacle and shows the unwillingness of local decision-makers in inclusion of citizens in the draft of public policies.

Meetings of the Mayor with municipal directors

One of the most disruptive actions and at the same most detrimental to local democracy that is undertaken during the term of office of incumbent Mayor has been the closure of the Mayor's meeting with the directors (formerly the Board of Directors) for the public eye. Since the render of such decision, it was never provided a clear and conclusive rationale for the reasonableness of this closure. This practice, which is contrary to core principles of transparent governance, proves to be the best evidence that Prizren Municipality is failing in enacting the requirements of good governance. Note should be taken that in the meetings of the Mayor with municipal directors, the most sensitive decisions on the administration of

municipal budget are taken. One of the consequences of this practice of nontransparent operation of the municipal executive has been also documented in the Report of the Auditor General of Kosovo for Prizren Municipality of 2011.⁹ The findings of this Report prove the incompetence of Prizren Municipality for adherence to good governance and transparency relative to the expenditure of public money. From 60 samples tested by the Auditor, that cover over 6 million of the payments of expenditures through procurement procedures, it was observed that in 17 samples the municipality has undertaken procurement procedures which are not in accordance with the Law on Public Procurement.¹⁰

Oversight of mayoral functions

The current system of local governance (mayoral system) has brought to a very politically-and-executively strong mayor. Underlying quandary of this system rests between the effective governance and eventual impairment of democracy at the local level. Representatives of the opposition in Municipal Assembly of Prizren, on many occasions, have accused the Mayor for seizing the Municipal Assembly's competencies (particularly on the decisions for management with municipal property). When it comes to taking punitive actions towards the law-breaching mayors, rare are cases when the local or central authorities of Kosovo have done so. If the supervisory authority (in this case the Ministry of Local Government Administration) deems that a municipal decision or act is not in compliance with the Constitution and laws, it may request from the municipality to review such decision or

⁹ Office of The Auditor General, Audit Report on the Annual Financial Statements of Municipality of Prizren for the year ended on 31 December 2011, June 2012, Prishtina

¹⁰ *Ibid.* – 6.2 Expenditures, 6.2.1 Procurement

act. If the municipality does not respond within the foreseen deadline, or rejects the request, or supports the disputed decision or act, the supervisory authority can challenge the act in question at the District Court territorially competent for the municipality.

Citizen participation in decision-making

Transparency of municipal bodies remains among of the weakest facets of local governance in Prizren. According to the research of BIRN Kosovo, only 7% of respondents Kosovo-wide think the level of transparency is excellent.¹¹ Citizens of Prizren municipality still are not part of local policy-making and their inclusion in the process of consultations is extremely rare or barely formal. The respondents in this research provided the following evaluation of the level of transparency in their municipalities: very low (29.8%), the required minimum (19.0%), average (26.4%), good (16.0%) and excellent (7.0%)¹² So far, the mechanisms of direct democracy foreseen in the Law on Local Self-Government and the Statute of Prizren Municipality remain an untapped opportunity in Prizren Municipality. On the other side, the Municipality of Prizren is demonstrating total incapacity in involving the citizens in decision-making through public consultations, public meetings, participatory budgeting and consultative committees.

Public consultations – Prizren Municipality officials do not accurately comprehend the process of public consultations, whereas there are some who error them with the public meetings of municipality. Research reports on local governance indicate that municipal

decision-makers do not always accurately understand the policy-making cycle; and when consulted, the citizens are met for the form alone. Prizren Municipality officials do not adhere to certain fundamental aspects of the organization of public consultations on the municipal decisions and acts. Almost in all the cases, the consultations with citizens are held with a constricted group of people invited, with the material introduced during the meeting only, and the conclusion of such meetings after only 2-3 hours of deliberations. Moreover, there is no such instrument for the citizens to address remarks raised during these meetings.

Public meetings – These meetings are perceived as a requirement emanating from the Law on Local Self-Government and the Statute of Prizren Municipality rather than a possibility to listen to the requests and remarks of the citizens and for their inclusion in local decision-making. These meetings, as required by the law, are held twice a year and, at this provision, the municipality is being accurate with them. Participation in the public meetings remains in rather low levels, while there is a strong belief among the citizens of Prizren that in such meetings the Municipality tends in inviting the municipal administration employees and constituents of the ruling party in order to avoid being criticised by, and eventual dissent with the citizens. A survey of BIRN Kosovo shows quite low level of citizens who say that are frequently informed about the meetings with the public (only 7%). Participation in the public meetings remains in rather low levels, while there is a strong belief among the citizens of Prizren that in such meetings the Municipality tends in inviting the municipal administration employees and constituents of the ruling party in order to

¹¹ Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Directly Elected Mayor System in Local Governance, March 2011, Prishtina

¹² Ibid. – Transparency and citizen participation in decision-making

avoid being criticised by, and possible dissent with the citizens.¹³

UNDP and USAID, in the Mosaic report of 2006, revealed that 23% of the citizens at the Kosovo-level declared that they had knowledge of meetings organised by their respective municipality, whereas in 2009 this figure was much higher – in average, one in three respondents stated they were informed of these meetings, but only 8% of them had taken part.¹⁴ The monitors of the work of municipality and the journalists of Prizren have regularly reported for the absence of substantial discussions during these meetings and the incompetence of municipal officials to address potential remarks raised by the citizens participating.

Participatory budgeting – Kosovo municipalities appear far from the practices of citizens' involvement in the discussions and decision on the municipal budget. Participatory budgeting directly engages the citizens in decision-making on the public spending and budgetary priorities. Participatory budgeting processes may be set in territorial (either neighbourhoods or greater) or thematic outlook. The participatory budgeting involves urban residents and community groups in the discussions and voting of expenditure priorities; submission of expenditure proposals and their adoption, and enables citizens in overseeing the process and the results emerging from such manner of drafting and spending of municipal budget. Despite the fact that the Mayor of Prizren, during this year, has organized several meetings with the groups of citizens to discuss the coming year's budget, the level of observance of citizens' requests in the draft of the municipality's annual budget, remains

unclear. The practice of recent years shows that the draft of the municipality's annual budget depends entirely on the bare will of the Mayor and a tight group of individuals around him.

Consultative committees – The establishment of consultative committees is one of the requirements deriving from the Law on Local Self-Government. MLGA has issued Administrative Instruction on the Consultative Committees with the provision of having the citizens and other stakeholders in being part of local decision-making processes.¹⁵ To date, Prizren Municipality has proven redundant when it comes at establishing consultative committees. At the same time, it hasn't been observed any interest, either from the citizens or civil society, to utilize this civic decision-making mechanism.

¹³ Balkan Investigative Reporting Network, Directly Elected Mayor System in Local Governance, March 2011, Prishtina

¹⁴ UNDP and USAID, Kosovo Mosaic – Public Services and Local Authorities in Focus, October 2009

¹⁵ Ministry of Local Government Administration, Administrative Instruction No. 2008/10 on the Organization and Functioning of Consultative Committees in Municipalities, 15 July 2008

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to improve the level of transparency in local governance of Prizren, the relevant stakeholders (Prizren Municipality, Ministry of Local Government Administration, District Prosecutor's Office, Civil Society and the media) are suggested to undertake the following immediate actions:

- Amendment of Regulation on Transparency with the inclusion of explicit provisions on the obligations of the mayor and local municipal executive in relation to transparency,
- Withdrawal of the mayor's decision, thus to terminate non-transparent practices of his closed meetings with the directors,
- Undertake punitive measures towards municipal officials who do not grant access to official documents as foreseen in the Law on Access to Public Documents,
- Publicizing of all acts in their preliminary form (process of drafting) on the municipal official webpage,
- Upload of all municipal acts and decisions in their final form on the municipal official website upon their adoption,
- Amendment of the Law on Local Self-Government thereby strengthening Municipal Assembly in relation to the oversight of mayoral operations,
- Greater engagement of Ministry of Local Government Administration for supervision of legality in Prizren Municipality and capacity building of municipal officials in view of adherence to the law (prevention),
- Promotion of citizen participation mechanisms To regularly promote citizen participation mechanisms and to increase the interest of citizens to participate in public consultations,
- Increase the number of civil society organizations monitoring the local governance (with particular emphasis on sectoral monitoring)
- Substantial inclusion of citizens in the draft of annual budget of the municipality and to strengthen the procedures for meeting the requirements and needs of citizens in relation to the budget,
- Regular reporting in local medias of all undertakings that are contrary to the principles of good governance and transparency,
- District Prosecutor's Office to instigate investigations of all cases of malpractice reported by the organizations monitoring the work of municipality and on the findings on the Report of the Auditor General,
- To functionalize the Municipal Information Office for providing guiding information to citizens and prevent the overload in municipal administration,
- Set up of the Research and Public Opinion Office, which shall constantly track the citizens' opinion on various public policies.

V. “ONLINE TRANSPARENCY OF PRIZREN MUNICIPALITY” PROJECT

The “Online Transparency of Prizren Municipality” project has started with its implementation in April, which foresees the monitoring of municipal executive and reporting of findings through project’s website, www.onlinetransparency.org. This project is financially supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society. The core focus of monitoring will be the municipal executive (the mayor and directorates) as well as the municipal civil service. Monitoring findings to date: The mayor does not respond to a request for access to public documents (his Work Plan); website of Prizren Municipality – a useless tool; Municipal Regulation on Transparency, non-compulsory to the executive branch; Publication of decisions in a general manner, an ineffective practice; decisions in the preliminary/draft form not being published on municipal official website; decisions (conclusions) rendered from the mayor are not published on the website; school directors have no proper training to successfully manage the school budget; Poor quality of capital investments in schools; deficient services in primary healthcare; around 80% of constructions in the city (especially in the Historic Centre) did not comply to the construction permit and the requirements of cultural heritage; There is no proper planning and design of cultural policies, while the budget for cultural sector is drawn without consultation with the city's cultural and artistic community.

Recommendations of EC Ma Ndryshe for Prizren Municipality in relation to the increase of local transparency: the mayor and municipal directorates to be proactive in publicizing decisions they take, by utilizing the website; the mayor to authorize the directors of directorates to publicize decisions in their preliminary form on the municipal website; the mayor to

commence as soon as possible with the drawing up of his Work Plan for 2012 (and mandatory for 2013); meetings of the mayor with directors of directorates (Board) to be open for civil society and media; Directorate of Education to put more effective control upon school directors in terms of financial management; investigation of all cases of damages in newly constructed schools, thus to bound economic operators in remediation of these breakdowns; initiate procedures to demolish all constructions built without a permit and those constructed out of construction criteria, particularly in the Historic Centre of Prizren; and to draft the Strategy for Culture and start a structured dialogue with the civil society for the draft of adequate cultural policies.

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EC Ma Ndryshe

Non-governmental organization “Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe” was founded in March 2006. The main goals of the organization are: promotion of active and participatory citizenry and the raise of civic awareness on the protection and foster of cultural heritage. EC Ma Ndryshe is one of the founding and representing organizations of Kosovo in South East European Heritage Network of organizations that deal with cultural heritage – SEE Heritage Network. Furthermore, it is the founder of Cultural Heritage Forum of Prizren, Cultural Organizations’ Network (RrOK) in Prizren and of the Independent Culture Organizations’ Network of Kosovo – Cultural Forum.

Since its establishment in 2006, EC Ma Ndryshe is exercising direct pressure on local government in Prizren to generate access for civil society and the citizens in participatory decision-making. In addition to direct participation in public consultation processes, EC Ma Ndryshe has regularly advocated the adherence to legal requirements for public consultations, wider community involvement in public consultations and inclusion of community’s matters and needs in public policy documents. In order to provide a specific model of public consultation, EC Ma Ndryshe has implemented the “Citizen Open Forums” project in which the instrument of the Forum posed as an efficient model of citizen participation in decision-making. In addition, EC Ma Ndryshe, through the Cultural Heritage Forum of Prizren, has set-up an advocacy platform for the city’s cultural community by turning this Forum in an active participant in drafting cultural policies at local level.

On the part of enforcement of direct democracy instruments, EC Ma Ndryshe was a co-initiator of two Petitions in the city of Prizren; one for prevention of pulling down the city’s cinema building and the second one to rebuff the draft law on the Historic Centre of Prizren. One of tangible actions with the youth of the city had been the cooperation with the Film Festival Dokufest on screening the documentaries for the city’s secondary school students. The documentaries included a wide range of civic education topics for coaching citizen-responsible and active future generations. Activism is one of the guiding principles of the organization’s internal operation as well. Through the Group of Active Volunteers (a group that operates within EC Ma Ndryshe), the organization has promoted voluntary activity in many areas, particularly in the domain of culture and cultural heritage.

Main projects: Cultural Volunteers (2012 – 2013), Citizen participation in the design and implementation of cultural policies in Prizren municipality (2012 – 2013), Online Transparency of Prizren Municipality (2012), Role of Civil Society in Promotion of Cultural Heritage (regional project) 2011 – 2013, A Balkan Tale, Ottoman heritage in the Balkans (regional project) (2011 – 2013), Raising cultural awareness among youth through documentaries (2010), Strengthening citizens’ action in promoting and protecting cultural heritage (2009), “Culture 2013” Platform (2008 – 2009), Restoration Camps (2007, 2008 & 2009), Open Citizens’ Forums (2007), European Heritage Days in Kosova (2006, 2007 & 2008), Zambaku i Prizrenit 2006.

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