



URBANISM WATCH

Prizren Urbanism under
permanent watch

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Press release #24

PRESS RELEASE

Prizren Municipality has to strengthen the control and monitoring of building permits

Within the project for monitoring and development in sector of Prizren urbanism, EC Ma Ndryshe has reviewed the issue of building permits which are issued by the Directorate of Urbanism and Spatial Planing, since this subject is emphasized within the findings in Auditors Report for 2014.

The office of the Auditor General has concluded that a considered number of approved requests for building permits didn't have completed documentation, while the ones which obtained permits didn't respect the urban criteria, while the Municipality didn't undertake prevention measures in this direction.

"One of the main sources of individual incomes is from the building permits. Municipality's incomes from building permits in 2014 were € 593,643. Our review has identified that out of 784 requests during the year, only 502 of them were approve, the required documentation was not completed. We have noticed that the ones obtained building permits dint follow the criteria set by urbanism. Furthermore, Municipality didn't undertake adequate measures for stopping this practice "says the report".

According to the author, Municipality didn't achieve to establish effective control and necessary monitoring during treatment of building cases. Low number of building permits application treatment has direct effect on potential incomes decrease from this source and risk of increase in number of illegal buildings. On the other side, absence of control and monitoring process in issuing building permits, can result with breach of legal requests and building standards.

The recommendation given by the OAG I that the Mayor has to ensure that a sufficient number of skilled staff members engaged in directorate of urbanism treats on time all applications for building permits. "Control and monitoring in this process has to strengthen in order to prevent illegal construction and overbuilding". If necessary, to apply legally foreseen sanctions", says the report.

Based on these data EC Ma Ndryshe assesses that the Municipal Government has serious trouble as far as establishment of urbanism order in Prizren concern and the condusions of Auditor show once again that this situation is negatively affecting city's urbanism and municipal budget.

Therefore we recommend Prizren Municipality that in as shorter time period reflect on latest findings of the Auditor in relation to building permits and undertake necessary action for application of OAG recommendations.;

We call upon the municipal government of Prizren to act according to legal responsibilities it has and take concrete measures in prevention of urban degrading within the city; and

We request that control and monitoring at building permits is strengthened to prevent illegal building and overbuilding.

“EC Ma Ndryshe” started with implementation of project “Urbanism of Prizren under permanent watch”, financially supported by Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS). The project will continue with monitoring and publication of findings in urbanism and spatial planning sector, and addressing the institutional responsibility as well.

With respect,

Valon Xhabali, Coordinator of NGO

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