



Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE

22 August 2014, Prishtina

PRESS RELEASE

Jashar Pasha's Mosque in Prishtina awaiting restoration for three years

Within the "Transparency Online" project, EC Ma Ndryshe, since June, has begun research on conservation and restoration works on cultural heritage monuments in Prishtina. After ascertaining the delays in restoration activities on the Çarshia Mosque (*Bazaar*), the objective of the next research is Jashar Pasha's Mosque.

On 23 September 2011 a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and Islamic Community of Kosovo. Under this agreement, TIKA will cover the entire cost of the project for which it had allocated about 900.000 Euros.

After a restoration project design by TIKA and obtaining all necessary permits for intervention on the object, the announcement of the tender and selection of the contractor was expected to be made at least in the year 2012. According to the representative of TIKA in Kosovo, this work has been carried out only now and works are expected to begin within a short period of time.

According to the aforementioned Memorandum of Cooperation it is clear that the entire responsibility for the design, administration and implementation of the project is left to the donor, in this case TIKA, whereas responsibilities reserved to MCYS consist in providing all necessary administrative preconditions for TIKA to implement the project.

At the onset of 2012, the Council of Islamic Community of Prishtina decides to close the mosque for the believers, after being ascertained considerable risk from the cracks and other damages the mosque has suffered over time. There is a risk for these damages in the monument deteriorate further unless certain safeguard measures are not undertaken. Dragging the procedures for the launch of restoration and conservation works that MCYS has entrusted to TIKA, certainly largely contributes to its further degradation.

EC Ma Ndryshe also expresses its concern for the fact that none of the parties who have signed this Memorandum of Cooperation for restoration works at Jashar Pasha Mosque has not taken steps to seal off and secure the building thus leaving room for irresponsible citizens to damage or remove valuable items from the interior of the mosque.

Given all the above, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends the following:

- Forthwith start of restoration works in Jashar Pasha's Mosque

- Whenever agreements on cultural heritage restoration works are signed, MCYS should pay particular attention in setting works deadlines of the works so to avoid potential delays.
- Securing and closing the mosque before restoration/conservation works begin.

The project of EC Ma Ndryshe for overseeing transparency of the Municipality of Prishtina shall continue with publicizing monitoring findings through regular press releases and the project's website, where the findings will be posted directly by the monitors. All monitoring findings, including regular press releases and other information in relation to the local government of Prishtina will be regularly published on the project's website: www.online-transparency.org.

Thank you,

Arch. Rozafa Basha, Project coordinator
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe
Saraqët Str. 5, Prizren, 20000
Perandori Dioklecian Str. 14, 5th floor (at Qafa complex), Prishtina, 10000
www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771
rozafa.basha@ecmandryshe.org



British Embassy
Prishtina

The project "Online Transparency of Prizren, Mamusha and Prishtina Municipalities" is financially supported by the British Embassy in Prishtina.