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PRESS RELEASE

Photography exhibition "Prizreni po lulëzon" ("Prizren is blooming")

EC Ma Ndryshe today has organized a photo exhibition at the Shadërvan Square in Prizren. The exhibition "Prizren po lulëzon" was organized within the "Inclusive City..." project, funded by Olof Palme International Center (OPIC), and supported by the Swedish Government. The exhibition contained photographs shot by the organization's staff and the citizens of Prizren, which displays the extent of the chaos, degradation, foulness and suppression in which many neighbourhoods of Prizren are found in. These photos once again have proven the quality of life of the citizens of Prizren, who face with a polluted environment, insufficient infrastructure, occupation of public space and endangered public safety.

At the opening of the exhibition "Prizreni po lulëzon", it was said that, "civic action has never been more necessary than today. The "blooming", for which the municipal officials speak about, makes us question their ability to see things in the right way. We, as never before, need a civic organization that will expose the "booming" rhetoric of the municipal officials. Ultimately, we do not necessarily need for blooming or shining. What we need is to ensure rule and order in our city. To regain the old city of Prizren – the one which used to be clean, well maintained, free to move and beautiful to enjoy in. Put simply, a Prizren that needs to come out from strangulation. We need a civic organization that would return the city to its citizens."

The exhibition "Prizreni po lulëzon" is a call for joint action and the same time a criticism toward the state institutions for action and not for "booming" rhetoric. Photos of the exhibition, realized in a number of Prizren quarters, should be to all of us a call for action. By calling to our conscience, we have to establish our responsibility for saving the city from chaos, degradation, usurpation and strangulation.

"Inclusive City..." is a three-year project of EC Ma Ndryshe, which aims at voicing the needs of community groups and to translate them into viable urban plans of Prizren municipality. Community groups that we work on this project are: women, senior citizens, youth, persons with special needs, residents from poor quarters, culture and environment. The project, in 2014, will organize two focus groups and a public debate with each community group, whereas it will simultaneously run the advocacy and cooperation process with the Municipality of Prizren and the Directorate of Urban and Spatial Planning to ensure inclusion of the citizens' requests in urban planning of the city.

Thank you.

With regards, Fjolla Gashi, Project coordinator NGO EC Ma Ndryshe

The "Inclusive City – Participatory Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Prizren" project is funded by the Olof Palme International Center, supported by the Swedish Government.

