

# THE MILLIONS SPENT ON CLOSED MONUMENTS



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EC Ma Ndryshe  
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## I. Introduction

About 3 million Euros have been spent within a short period of time for the restoration of ten cultural heritage monuments in Prizren. Today, almost all of these monuments are closed to the public. In total, since the completion of restoration works, these monuments have remained closed from 300 to 350 months. Consequently, they have generated 0 Euro from eventual economic activity. Moreover, only one of these ten monuments has a management plan. Millions spent for restoration, from the Kosovo budget and international donors, have produced closed monuments that are not putting an end to the cultural heritage degradation trend in the city.

According to World Bank, international experiences have shown that cultural and natural heritage values can become a driver for Local Economic Development, when strategic and coordinated efforts are undertaken by key local stakeholders, the local community and various levels of government to manage, develop and promote these values in concert and in a durable fashion<sup>1</sup>.

Another World Bank publication finds that heritage asset management can offer a range of benefits, that are numerous, distinct and growing<sup>2</sup>. Broadly, they can be divided into major economic and non-economic impacts. The economic impacts are: positive effects in reducing poverty, increased employment, increases in income from the culture and services industries, etc. Whereas the non-economic effects are: effects beneficial to the levels of education and of identity fostering, social cohesion, inclusion and social capital development, then the continued development of cultural heritage at the national level, as well as sustainable conservation and the passing of heritage to future generations. And both sets of benefits or impacts are very important<sup>3</sup>.

Researchers have pointed out that “conservation” and “management” of cultural heritage monuments must be complementary. Therefore, conservation is an essential premise for the good management of cultural heritage, but management creates additional values and goes beyond making the

preserved monuments more accessible to a larger number of people. This is why there should be cooperation between heritage management and the tourism industry<sup>4</sup>.

Cultural heritage is of great value to different industries. But the tourism sector is the industry that exploits cultural heritage to a greater extent in support of its main activities, such as accommodation, transportation and gastronomy<sup>5</sup>.

In this context, EC Ma Ndryshe took the initiative to analyze the impacts and benefits of several million worth of interventions into monuments of cultural heritage in Prizren and infrastructure in the Historic Centre.

The results of this research are discouraging, due to the fact that the millions invested over the last decade in 10 monuments of cultural heritage have produced only the reality of doors closed to the local public and foreign visitors, with zero economic impact for the city and almost no tangible benefits for the community.

## II. Prizren's Closed Monuments

EC Ma Ndryshe has collected data on restoration and conservation interventions in the following monuments of cultural heritage:

**Gazi Mehmed Pasha Hammam (Turkish Bath)**

**Hydro-Power Plant – Electrical Museum**

**Episcopal Church of St. George (Synod)**

**St. Friday Church**

**Archaeological Museum – Watch Tower (Shemsedin Ahmet Bey Hammam)**

**Museum of Mother Teresa**

**Old Municipal Building – Belediye**

**Shani Efendi Selamlık**

**House of Musa Shehzade**

1 World Bank, Cultural Heritage and Local Economic Development: Good Practice from the Western Balkans, at: [http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/06/01/000426104\\_20120601141153/Rendered/PDF/690900WP0P10910Final0Synthesis0Note.pdf](http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2012/06/01/000426104_20120601141153/Rendered/PDF/690900WP0P10910Final0Synthesis0Note.pdf), accessed on January 16, 2016

2 World Bank, Cultural Heritage and Development – A Framework for Action in the Middle East and North Africa, at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/13908/225590REPLACEMENT1003100110.pdf?sequence=1&jsAllowed=y>, accessed on January 14, 2016

3 Ibid

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5 Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway, Cultural Heritage Monuments and Historic buildings as value generators in a post-industrial economy”, at: [http://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11250/175613/nypan\\_cultural\\_heritage.pdf?sequence=1](http://brage.bibsys.no/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11250/175613/nypan_cultural_heritage.pdf?sequence=1), accessed on January 15, 2016

### House of Shuaip Pasha (Spahiu)

Apart from these, there was also data collected for the revitalization project of the Blacksmiths' Street.

In the last decade, the international community, Government of Kosovo and Municipality of Prizren, have spent close to **3 million Euros** in restoration/conservation projects on these monuments.

Monitoring activities in these monuments have concluded that the majority of them are closed to the public, or are not being used for the purpose intended by the funds allocated for interventions. Speaking in numbers, the doors of these monuments have been closed for a total of **300 to 350 months**.

The amount of funds generated by eventual economic activity in these monuments to date is **0 Euros**, whereas only **one of them** has a management plan, namely the Gazi Mehmed Pasha Hammam.

### Restoration with Insufficient Funding

In the case of the Hammam of Prizren, restoration works had begun with scarce resources. An estimate by the Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in Prizren had established that the amount needed for intervention is over 670 thousand Euros. For the first phase of these works UNESCO had allocated 214 thousand USD. It was therefore decided that the first phase interventions would focus on the domes to eliminate the risk of humidity damage and further degradation of the Hammam. However, UNESCO funds were insufficient for the completion of the first phase. Due to the lack of 50 thousand Euros, the works were interrupted in September 2014. Meanwhile, in February 2015, the lead sheeting from the roof of the Hammam was stolen twice, thus risking repeated damage to the monument due to wet conditions and further degradation. The Hammam is the only monument with a management plan, yet it does not operate year-round. Exceptionally, for cultural events, the doors of the Hammam open for short periods of time.

### Museum of Inactivity

Hydro-Power Plant – Electrical Museum has been restored thanks to funding by the US Embassy in Pristina. The res-

toration project was developed by the Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in Prizren and Cultural Heritage without Borders. The restoration works began in 2012 and were concluded in 2013. Planning had provided that upon completion of restoration works, the building would resume the function of the Electrical Museum. In the interim a study workshop was also arranged within the facility. However, to date, the Electrical Museum has rarely opened its doors for activities, let alone daily operations.

### Churches, for Clergy and Believers Only

Church of St. George and St. Friday Church were restored from 2005/06 to 2010 and 2014, respectively, intermittently. Both serve the needs of the Orthodox clergy, believers and pilgrims. The general public or tourists wanting to visit must obtain permission from the religious leaders of the Orthodox Church. In most cases, the requests are denied.

### Two Monuments, One Guard Only

The Archaeological Museum of Prizren – Watch Tower was recently restored with funding by the US Embassy in Pristina, while years ago funds had also been allocated by MCYS. Although this dual monument has been restored and has almost everything for regular operation, it is nevertheless closed to the public. Concurrently, there was no institutional leadership for several months, and no staff to care for daily activities. The only person employed at this monument is the security officer.

### An Example of the “Sacrifice” of Funds

The Museum of Mother Teresa is a project contracted five years ago by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports. This museum is not yet operational, although according to official reports works were completed in 2012. Mid last year the facility passed technical inspection, but to this day the Museum doors remain closed.

### “Regional Center” of the Department of Tourism

Old Municipal Building – Bedetiye was restored in 2010-2011, thanks to donations by the European Union Office in

Kosovo, with the purpose of being the first Regional Center for Cultural Heritage in the Balkans. However, this facility houses the Department of Tourism of the Municipality of Prizren for several years now.

### **Double Fraud**

The Shani Efendi Selamlik was restored thanks to support provided by the US Embassy Conservation Fund. The works were completed in 2014. The implementation of this project, besides contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage, also aimed to establish an office space, in the property owned by the Municipality of Prizren, to be used as a Tourist Information Office, which would provide an impetus to tourism development and the local economy. With funding by the Finnish Government, disbursed through UNDP, EC Ma Ndryshe established and fully equipped the facilities of the Tourist Information Office, along with tourism promotional materials. Despite this fact, the doors of the Tourist Information Office remain closed for more than six months, due to the failure of the Municipality of Prizren to assign personnel responsible for the daily activities of the Office.

### **Uninaugurated Monument**

House of Musa Shehzade was restored thanks to support provided by the US Embassy Conservation Fund. The works were completed in 2013. The plan entailed for this monument to house the Ethnological Museum. This is yet to happen.

### **Diplomatic Academy of Degradation**

The House of Shuaip Pasha (Spahiu) was reconstructed by the Municipality of Prizren, by not respecting the principles applicable for damaged cultural heritage buildings. Property related issues were not resolved either. Moreover, investments started with plans to establish a museum with exhibiting showpieces belonging to Shuaip Spahiu and partially serve as an art gallery. Afterwards, the idea of a Bekim Fehmiu Museum was propagated. It was only after this that the Municipality of Prizren decided to grant this facility for use to the Diplomatic Academy of the Republic of Kosovo. However, the Diplomatic Academy is yet to move there, due to legal disputes over the ownership. Meanwhile, senior municipal officials have acknowledged that the facility is not

being maintained and that there is degradation.

### **Deviation in Forging**

Blacksmiths' Street is a project implemented by the Municipality of Prizren and UN Habitat. The works were completed in 2011. The street was revitalized in an effort to link the Historic Center with some important monuments of cultural heritage. As such, it was foreseen to always be cared for, maintained and passable for visitors and pedestrians. Currently there is a lack of proper maintenance, lighting is not operational, and the pedestrian square has been turned into a vehicle parking lot once again. Subsequently, the overall appearance is one of a degraded space. This infrastructure project was included in the list of monuments analyzed herein due to the fact that it constitutes the connecting link between them.

**Prizren Castle**, a very important archaeological monument, where many funds have also been invested, is not included in this analysis, due to the fact that the greatest volume of restoration/conservation activities are ongoing, parallel to the development of the Management Plan. However, Prizren Castle will be the subject of a future EC Ma Ndryshe research effort, focusing solely on this monument.

## **III. Report Findings**

All research findings on targeted monuments are presented in the tables below, including: restoration date, restoration cost, donor, intended use/designation, current use/designation, management plan, monument features, protection status, ownership, current state and infrastructure. The factual data of this analysis was collected from the responsible institutions and the organization does neither guarantee nor assume responsibility for relevant one-hundred percent accuracy.

## Gazi Mehmed Pasha Hammam (Turkish Bath)

Restoration Date	Works began in August 2013, to continue until November 2013. Then they resumed in March 2014 and were interrupted in September 2014 for lack of funds.
Restoration Cost	For the first phase of restoration UNESCO allocated USD 214 thousand. According to the estimate by the RCCH in Prizren the amount required is EUR 670 thousand.
Donor	Government of Turkey, through UNESCO
Intended/Planned Designation	Hammam Museum (the men's section of the Hammam) and Multifunctional Cultural Space (the women's section of the Hammam) i.e. gallery, craft workshops, coffee-tea shop, tourist information center, etc.
Current Use	Unused. Sometimes serves as a gallery for cultural activities, but only the wardrobe section of the Hammam.
Management Plan	There is a management plan, which was drafted during July-September 2014, sponsored by EU (Ljubljana Process). Organizer was CHwB (Albania), whereas the presentation was made in November 2014, in Budva, Montenegro.
Importance/Features	The Hammam is part of the architectural ensemble created by Gazi Mehmed Pasha, including Bajrakli Mosque, Secondary School (Madrassa), Elementary School (Meytep), Library and Shrine (Turbe). Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hammam is among the most important buildings of Ottoman architecture in Kosovo. It's of the "cifte hammam", type, dual, consisting of two main sections and used by both sexes at the same time, with separate entrances and separately.
Status/Decision No.	Legal protection status, No. 380/54
Ownership	Islamic Community (building) and Municipality of Prizren (courtyard)
Current State	Unused and in disrepair. Restoration remains unfinished. Lack of lead sheeting in a part of the roof threatens further damage to the facility. There were two cases of lead sheeting theft.
Infrastructure	There is drainage around the Hammam, which was set during the restoration of 1960/70. Electrical power is supplied from the electric poles in the North-West. It is provisional and temporary, and cannot be considered a proper electrical installation system.



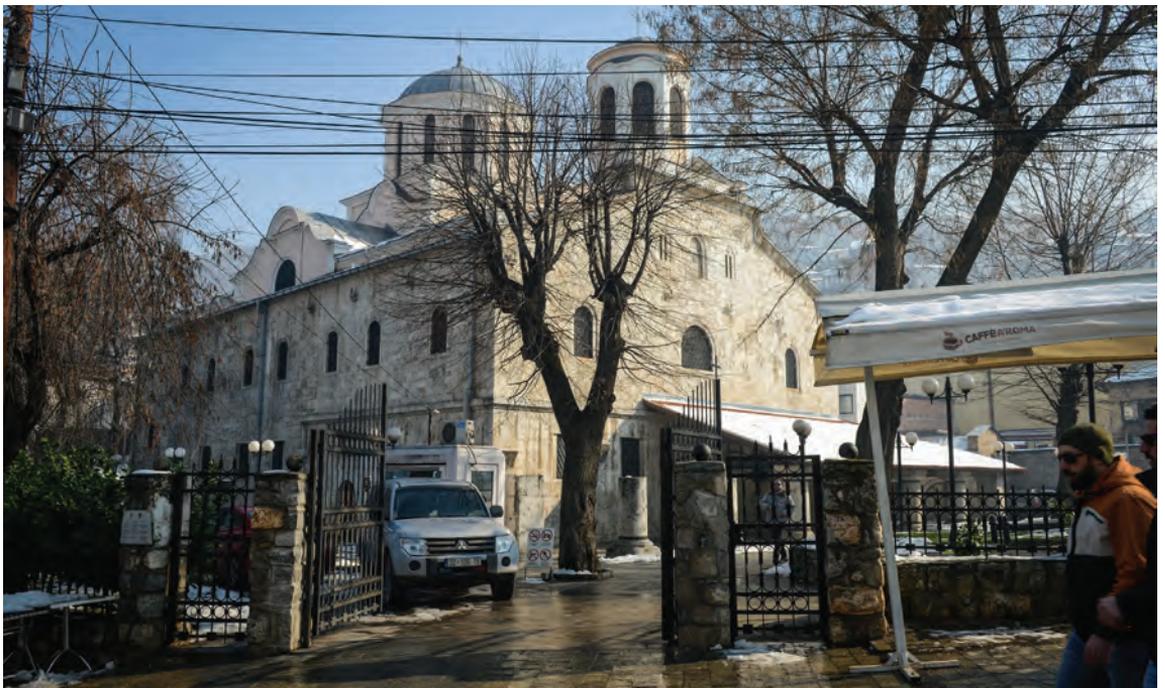
## Hydro-Power Plant – Electrical Museum

Restoration Date	The works lasted from 2012 to 2013
Restoration Cost	USD 123,000
Donor	US Embassy, Pristina
Intended/Planned Designation	Electrical Museum and Study Workshop, Multifunctional Space
Current Use	Not in use
Management Plan	None
Importance/Features	“Prizrenasja” Hydro Power Plan Museum is located on the 3rd kilometer of the Lumbardh River mouth. It was built in 1929 on the Lumbardh River banks. It is the first electric power plant and the only Electrical Museum in Kosovo. It supplied the town with electricity for 44 years, and stopped its operations on November 1, 1973. On November 8, 1979 it was transformed into the Electrical Museum of Kosovo, exhibiting many original materials and photographs that reflect the development of electrical economy in Kosovo.
Status/Decision No.	Legal protection status, No. 50/77
Ownership	Ministry of Culture – RCCH Prizren
Current State	The works have not been completed as foreseen in the project. In addition to restoration works that have not been fully completed, nothing has been done in the preparation and creation of conditions for the opening of the museum
Infrastructure	Although the building underwent restoration works, installation systems are not fully completed. However, in general, the installation systems meet the basic needs of the building.



## Episcopal Church of St. George (Synod)

Restoration Date	Works in the building started in September 2006 and lasted until February 2009. Works in the courtyard ended in 2011
Restoration Cost	EUR 1.23 million
Donor	Ministry of Culture and international donors. The works were implemented through the Reconstruction Implementation Commission
Intended/Planned Designation	Church
Current use	Church
Management Plan	None
Importance/Features	Episcopal Church of St. George is located in the city center, following Shadervan (Fountain) Square, on the way to Qafa e Pazarit (Bazaar). The construction of the building started in 1856 and was completed in 1887. It is a three aisle church, constructed with chiseled stones put together with lime mortar, while the bell tower is built in brick. The church has a 30x20 m foundation and its height reaches up to 13.80 m. The exterior is not plastered, and the wall structure is visible. By typology it is a basilica with a central dome.
Status/Decision No.	Legal protection status, No. 02-956/64
Ownership	Serbian Orthodox Church
Current State	In good state
Infrastructure	In order



## St. Friday Church

Restoration Date	The works lasted from July 2006 to September 2014, with intermittent interruptions
Restoration Cost	EUR 410 thousand
Donor	Ministry of Culture and international donors. The works were implemented through the Reconstruction Implementation Commission
Intended/Planned Designation	Church
Current use	Not in use
Management Plan	None
Importance/Features	There are 7 construction or reconstruction phases for the St. Friday Church: Phase I - Roman Temple from from 2nd-3rd Century, Phase II - Three Aisle Basilica from 5th-6th Century, Phase III - Basilica on the foundation of previous construction from 11th Century, Phase IV - Frescos identified as "The Mother of God with Christ" and "Wedding at Cana" from 13th Century, Phase V - Reconstruction of Serbian King Milutin from 14th Century, Phase VI - Transformation of the church into a mosque, which was named Juma Mosque, assumed in 15th-16th Century, and Phase VII - Conquest of Prizren by Serbs in 1912 and the destruction of the minaret and the reintroduction of the bell tower and the restoration of the church. St. Friday Church is the only cultural heritage property in Prizren under UNESCO protection.
Status/Decision No.	Legal protection status, No. 352/48
Ownership	Serbian Orthodox Church
Current State	In relatively good condition
Infrastructure	Partially good



## Archaeological Museum – Watch Tower (Shemsedin Ahmet Bey Hammam)

Restoration Date	Two most recent restorations occurred in 2008-2010, and 2014-2015 respectively
Restoration Cost	Cost of restoration/conservation investment by the Ministry of Culture in 2008, was around EUR 53 thousand. Cost of restoration by the US Embassy in 2014 was USD 197 thousand
Donor	Ministry of Culture and the US Embassy in Pristina
Intended/Planned Designation	Archaeological Museum
Current Use	Closed to the public. Ready for multifaceted use, upon restoration. No permanent management or activities
Management Plan	None
Importance/Features	Shemsedin Ahmet Bey Hammam was built in the 15th century, in 1498. By mid 19th century, the Watch Tower was built on the warm Hammam space. By 1970, the Hammam and Watch Tower were used by nearby residents as a warehouse and landfill, thus causing great damage. Works to protect this valuable heritage site started after 1970, and the facility was reopened in 1975 with a new designation converting the Hammam into an Archaeological Museum. It is the first archaeological museum in Kosovo. The Shemsedin Ahmet Bey Hammam is one of the oldest baths in the Balkans and together with the Watch Tower, these two constitute the most interesting and characteristic buildings of the city of Prizren.
Status/Decision No.	Legal protection status, No. 1263/68
Ownership	Ministry of Culture – RCCH Prizren
Current State	Mostly good. There are problems with the neighboring buildings that affect moisture penetration. Mostly closed to the public.
Infrastructure	It is generally good. There is no lighting for the exhibits. There is insufficient parking for the museum.



## Museum of Mother Teresa

Restoration Date	Works lasted from 2010 to 2012
Restoration Cost	EUR 102 thousand
Donor	Ministry of Culture
Intended/Planned Designation	Museum
Current Use	Not in use and unequipped
The management plan	None
Importance/Features	The building is located opposite the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor. It is a new building, but the intended designation would attach special importance to this facility. A museum dedicated to Mother Teresa would obviously introduce a very important part to the cultural mosaic of Prizren.
Status/Decision No.	Within the Historic Center of Prizren
Ownership	Municipality of Prizren
Current State	It seems to be in order. There is moisture, since the building is closed and no air circulation.
Infrastructure	Since the museum is closed and not in operation, it is not known if the installation systems may have been compromised in the interim.



## Old Municipal Building – Belediye

<b>Restoration Date</b>	Restoration lasted from 2010 to 2011
<b>Restoration Cost</b>	EUR 200 thousand
<b>Donor</b>	European Commission – ECLO
<b>Intended/Planned Designation</b>	The First Regional Centre for Cultural Heritage in the Balkans
<b>Current Use</b>	Used as an administrative office of the Department of Tourism and Economic Development, Municipality of Prizren
<b>Management Plan</b>	None
<b>Importance/Features</b>	Located on the Western border of the Historic Centre of Prizren, on the right bank of Lumbardh River. The building has a rectangular foundation. It features a richly ornamented façade, with mural plaster decorations. The interior of the building is characterized by wood-carved elements in the columns, staircase balustrades, and ceilings. The Belediye building is a public administrative building, built in the 19th century and as such has high historical, architectural and artistic value.
<b>Status/Decision No.</b>	It has legal protection status
<b>Ownership</b>	Municipality of Prizren
<b>Current State</b>	Relatively good
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Good



## Shani Efendi Selamlık (Man's Quarters)

Restoration Date	Restoration work took place during 2013 and 2014
Restoration Cost	USD 55 thousand
Donor	US Embassy, Municipality of Prizren, Family Participation Funding
Intended/Planned Designation	Residential, Business, Tourist Information Center
Current Use	Ground floor is used for business, while the top floor is residential, however currently not in use. Tourist Information Center has been equipped with relevant inventory and promotional materials, but Prizren Municipality has failed in ensuring daily operation.
Management Plan	None
Importance/Features	The house is a two-story building. On the ground floor there is an enduring knife making craft store. On the top floor, the house has two veranda-like balconies –çardak, which extend out from façade. The çardaks are different, one is rectangular, and the other in semicircular shape. The two çardaks provide a characteristic shape to the house, transforming it into one of the most beautiful houses in Prizren.
Status/Decision No.	It has legal protection status
Ownership	Shilik Family and the Municipality of Prizren
Current State	The building is in good condition, having undergone restoration in 2014.
Infrastructure	In order



## House of Musa Shehzade

Restoration Date	Restoration carried out in 2012 and 2013
Restoration Cost	EUR 55 thousand
Donor	US Embassy in Pristina and Prizren Municipality
Intended/Planned Designation	Ethnological Museum
Current Use	NGO Numismatics manages the monument museum space
Management Plan	None
Importance/Features	The house was built in the 18th century. It is a representation of the culmination of Renaissance folk architecture, which incorporates many original elements of the local architecture of Prizren. Mid 20th century, the courtyard of the site was cut in half and a new building was constructed covering the front half of the building in question. After the 1980s the building was no longer used as a residential building, but instead it was used as a warehouse of electrical materials.
Status/Decision No.	Legal protection status, No. 615/55
Ownership	Municipality of Prizren
Current State	Good
Infrastructure	Once the restoration was completed, and the building was revitalized and re-purposed into a museum, installation systems were put in order. There is no parking space.



## House of Shuaip Pasha (Spahiu)

<b>Restoration Date</b>	The total reconstruction of the house took place in 2010 and 2011
<b>Restoration Cost</b>	EUR 120 thousand
<b>Donor</b>	Municipality of Prizren
<b>Intended/Planned Designation</b>	The Seat of the Kosovo Diplomatic Academy
<b>Current Use</b>	Not in use. In legal dispute over property claims.
<b>Management Plan</b>	None
<b>Importance/Features</b>	Shuaip Pasha House was built in the early 19th century by Shuaip Pasha Spahiu, the branch leader of the Albanian League of Prizren. The house had architectural and folkloric values, both inside and outside. After it was set on fire and totally destroyed, it was rebuilt in 2010-2011.
<b>Status/Decision No.</b>	Legal protection status, No. 957/64
<b>Ownership</b>	Kazazi Family, Perolli Family and Arënlju Family
<b>Current State</b>	Not in use and incomplete interior furnishing. Damage and degradation are taking root as a consequence of not being in operation.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Once the building was rebuilt, installations systems were reset.



## Blacksmiths' Street

Restoration Date	The street revitalization works lasted from 2010 to 2011.
Restoration Cost	EUR 231 thousand
Donor	UN Habitat and Municipality of Prizren
Intended/Planned Designation	Promenade – recreation area
Current use	Used, but not in the form foreseen by the project
Management Plan	None
Importance/Features	The street connects to Shadërvan (Fountain) Square through the Stone Bridge. Many buildings of cultural heritage of particular importance, such as: Halveti's Tekke, Shani Efendi Selamlik, Kino Lumbardhi (Movie Theater), Gazi Mehmed Pasha Hammam, Kukli Bey Mosque, are located in this street.
Status/Decision No.	Within the Historic Center of Prizren
Ownership	Municipality of Prizren
Current State	Lacking adequate maintenance. Barrier cubes to prevent the parking of vehicles have been moved. Lighting has been damaged and is in disrepair. Vehicle parking continues to degrade this space.
Infrastructure	Lighting is damaged. Blocks are displaced. Seats are worn.



## IV. Conclusions

The millions invested over the last decade in 10 monuments of cultural heritage have produced only the reality of doors closed to the local public and foreign visitors, zero economic effect for the city and almost no tangible benefits for the community, other than the physical conservation of the monuments, and the latter being deficient in certain cases.

Due to the lack of easy access, in general, these monuments have not been able to bring any economic and non-economic benefits to the city and the community. Moreover, not a single sustainable activity was accomplished that would, at the very least, be useful to pupils and students in the relevant school systems. Whereas, the instances of the Orthodox churches demonstrate that at this stage there can be no talk of positive impact on social cohesion.

All these findings indicate that the local and central level of government, despite having strategic plans listing cultural heritage and tourism as an important pillar of development, in reality do not have any ideas and plans on how to implement this specifically in view of real economic benefit. Consequently, many budget funds are spent without a return as double benefits for the taxpayers. The existence of a single management plan for 10 objects of cultural heritage is proof enough for this.

In this regard, the practices of non-operational cultural heritage assets can be discouraging for international donors as well. Therefore, at this point the donors themselves should condition their support of restoration and conservation projects with the existence of management plans for cultural heritage monuments.

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## EC Ma Ndryshe

EC is a community organization, founded in 2006, committed to the advancement of democracy in Kosovo at the local level. The Organization works with a considerable number of community groups, and maintains constant pressure on the local governments for inclusive, transparent and accountable governance. EC engages in civic action for shaping our living environment by fostering genuine community organization, democratization of institutions and enrichment of cultural life in the key centers of Kosovo, focusing on Prizren and Pristina. Since January 2015, EC operates the following three programs: Inclusive City (Community Mobilization), Good Governance (Monitoring and Advocacy), Research (Knowledge Production).

EC's differentiating features are: first, geographic focus, and second, approach to issues of interest. Based in Prizren and Pristina, the organization uses the anthropological approach to research and policy development. As a result, the organization's research products provide reliable content, since they deal with the essence of the problem rather than the symptoms. Further, EC covers specialty areas such as urban planning, cultural policies, public space management, and alike, which in general remain under-addressed in Kosovo. The organization's research activity and grassroots activism are well-combined and interdependent work methods. Through activism, EC is permanently involved in working with community groups to identify their needs, which are the sources feeding its research component. This methodology enables greater influence over the policy-making agenda, as ideas are coming from the bottom, along with creating opportunities for the inclusion of policymakers in a constructive and well-informed debate.

The Organization's main projects in the recent years: EC for Transparent and Inclusive Cities (2015-2016), Municipal Transparency Reform Index (2015-2016), Urbanism Watch – Urbanism of Prizren under Scrutiny (2013 – 2016), Cultural and Urban Activism in Prizren (2014-2015), Inclusive City – Participatory Planning for Sustainable Urban Development in Prizren (2013 – 2015), Linking Communities to Justice Providers (2014-2016), Regional Development through Cultural Tourism (2014-2015), Citizen Participation through Social Media (2013 – 2014), Cultural Heritage, the Central Pillar for Sustainable Local and Regional Development in Prizren (2013 – 2014), Citizen Participation in the Drafting Cultural Policies in Prizren Municipality (2012 – 2013), On-line Transparency of Prizren, Mamusha and Prishtina Municipalities (2012 – 2015), A Balkans Tale (2011-2012), Civic Action in Protecting Cultural Heritage (2009-2010).

The Organization's most recent publications: A City for the Community (2015), Beautiful and Green – Catalog of the Region South (2015), Erasing the Traces – Historic Centers of Kosovo (2015), Protection and Promotion of Cultural Heritage (Input for the Progress Report) (2015), (in)Justice in Urbanism of Prizren (2015), Community Groups and Urban Planning in Prizren (2015), Prizren Region Catalog (2015), Urban Planning for Citizens (2014), Countdown to Last Days for the Historic Center of Prishtina (2014), Where Is Prizren's Cobblestone? (2014), Public Money as "Dad's Money" (2014), Guide to Municipal Transparency (2014), Historic Center of Prizren, (un)Protected Area (2014), Reading the City through Urbanism (2014).



