



**Non-governmental organizations Civil
Emancipation Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRY SHE**

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PRESS RELEASE

Progress Report confirms the need for increased transparency in Kosovo Municipalities

The European Commission Report on Kosovo for 2015, once again highlighted the need for the local government level to increase transparency in decision-making, which is consistent with the constant calls of civil society in Kosovo. Another issue underlined in the report, where also the parallels with Kosovo municipalities can be drawn, deals with the inadequacy of budgetary transparency.

The Report takes account of local government efforts in Kosovo to improve the capacity and decision making in accordance with the Law on Local Self-Government, but it also highlighted that the Kosovo municipalities need to continue their efforts in increasing the transparency.

“Local government efforts must continue for increasing of transparency in decision-making and strengthening the oversight role of the Municipal Assemblies”, stated in the report.

Meanwhile the report in the part describing the developments in the public finance management in Kosovo, states that "the budget transparency is insufficient", which applies to the municipalities of Kosovo as well.

“In particular, the information on the budget should be more reliable and detailed in order to strengthen the accountability. Introduction of the main budget information in accessible manner will build the public trust and will contribute in improving the citizen-state relations," stated in the report.

The Concerns about the abovementioned issues have been frequently raised by the EC Ma Ndryshe. Therefore, the findings of European Commission Report should be correctly understood by the Kosovo Municipalities, urging them to take immediate actions to increase the transparency in decision-making and budget management, as well as to enable more effective oversight by the Municipal Assemblies. At the same time we urge the line ministries in the Government of Kosovo to undertake appropriate actions in order to ensure substantial improvement in the transparency of the municipal level.

Ec Ma Ndryshe started implementing the project "Municipal Transparency Index Reform" since May 2015, thanks to the support of the UK Embassy in Pristina, which covers the largest municipalities of Kosovo, Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Mitrovica, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Gjakova, as well as in Suharekë, Rahovec, Malisheva, Dragash, Mamusha and Shtërpe. The concerned project is aimed at assisting the municipalities in identifying major gaps in terms of transparency as well as providing guidelines for addressing and overcoming them. Transparency Index presents a structured effort to support Kosovo municipalities in meeting the standards of good governance, defined with the reform of local government and Kosovo's European agenda.

Respectfully,
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