



Non-governmental organization Civil Emancipation Ma Ndryshe

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PRESS RELEASE

Neighboring municipalities of Prizren should increase the financial transparency

Neighboring municipalities of Prizren are still coping with challenges in respect to the financial transparency with the public. Municipalities of Rahovec, Suharekë, Dragash, Mamushë, Shtërpce and Malishevë, shall increase their efforts in providing statements on the implementation and expenditures of funds from the municipal budget.

The executive officials of these municipalities have enabled the access to public files for the monitors of EC Ma Ndryshe, respectively they have provided financial reports for the period of January-June 2015, although there were delays registered in this respect.

The Municipality of Suharekë provided the copy of the biannual financial report, one and a half month after the submission of the request. While other municipalities needed approximately two weeks to provide access to this public document.

However, there are other municipalities that did not post these reports on their official websites. The biannual reports are still missing in the websites of the municipalities of Shtërpce, Mamushë, Dragash, Rahovec and Suharekë, while in the meantime this document was posted on the website of the Municipality of Malishevë. The quarterly financial report has been posted in the website of the Municipality of Rahovec, while these reports are missing in the municipalities of Shtërpce, Mamushë, Dragash and Suharekë.

EC Ma Ndryshe, recalls that the financial transparency is a key element of an effective management of the public funds, where data publication enables the citizens to seek responsibility and accountability from the municipal leadership. Periodic financial reports of the local governments need to reassure the public that the taxpayers' funds are being properly used and that they serve to the local development agenda. The financial information have to be substantial and complete, reliable and accessible to the public. Therefore, the publication of the periodic financial reports is a minimum requirement for the financial transparency efforts.

Based on these findings, EC Ma Ndryshe stated that the financial transparency is vital for the overall assessment of the transparency in the municipality. The data regarding the municipal budget under the Administrative Instruction 05/2013 on Transparency in Municipalities are public documents.

Therefore, having taken into consideration all these above, EC Ma Ndryshe recommends to the neighboring municipalities of Prizren to increase the budget transparency; to increase their efforts for regular online publication of financial reports and that their contents should be clear

for the public, in order to meet at least the minimum requirements for the financial transparency.

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.

With respect,

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