

PRESS RELEASE

Clogged sidewalks, the greatest concern of Prizren citizens

19 August 2014, Prizren

Today EC Ma Ndryshe presented the results of the latest research on the perceptions of citizens on issues of urbanism in the city of Prizren. This is the third survey with wider sampling pattern in Prizren within two years, which aims to ascertain the key concerns and to measure approval of Prizren citizens about urbanism. The research is part of the methodology of "Inclusive City..." project, which from January 2013 renders the needs of Prizren citizens into the viable urban plans of the municipality. The survey was divided into two sections. The first section included the general population in which have participated 300 respondents (55% of female and 45% of the male gender); while the second section included organizations and community groups whereas 100 interviews were conducted.

Research results show that nearly half of the citizens of Prizren have no understanding whether the municipality possesses urban plans. Disturbing is another finding that about 60% of citizens are not informed of their right to participate in the drafting of urban plans and municipal regulations. A finding that is confirmed for the third consecutive time since last year is the extremely low percentage of citizens who have participated in public hearings organized by the municipality. Only 11% of citizens stated they were invited by the municipality in public hearings, while nearly 20% of them say to have been invited by civil society (NGOs).

Same as in 2013, this research perpetuates the notion that the primary concern of the citizens of Prizren is the blocked sidewalks, which poses a violation of the right of free movement. In the list of concerns, except the blocked sidewalks to a high percentage rate stand illegal constructions and lack of green areas too. Two major concerns of the senior citizens in the city are the lack of venues for pensioners and vehicle-clogged sidewalks, whereas another great concern of women of the city, except blocking of the sidewalks, remains street safety.

According to research the highest approval rate of citizens is for public transport, sewerage and streetlights, while they are less pleased with the sidewalk maintenance, illegal constructions and movement for people with special needs.

The research also looked at the perceptions of cultural and environmental organizations in Prizren and determined that five major concerns of these groups are: environmental pollution, destruction of the Historic Centre, lack of a plan for sustainable environmental development, blocking of the sidewalks and the lack of cultural spaces.

With regards,
Hajrulla Çeku, Executive director
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe

The project "Inclusive city – participatory planning for sustainable urban development in Prizren" is funded by the Olof Palme International Center, supported by the Government of Sweden.

