



**Non-governmental organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDRYSHE**

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PRESS RELEASE

Gjakova and Prishtina transparency leaders

EC Ma Ndryshe has published the Municipal Transparency Reform Index, which reflects the results of 13 relevant indicator groups that show the level of transparency during 2016 in the municipalities of Prishtina, Prizren, Ferizaj, Peja, Gjilan, Gjakova, Mitrovica as And Rahovec, Vushtrri, Malishevë, Suhareka, Klina, Dragash, Shtërpçë and Mamusha.

The index was launched during the conference, where panelists Mimoza Kusari-Lila, Mayor of Gjakova, Dardan Sejdiu, Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Pristina and Xhemali Haxhimustafa, Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Rahovec have presented their views on transparency in their respective municipalities but also participated in discussions with participants who were representatives of local government from different municipalities, civil society activists, journalists, etc.

Mimoza Kusari-Lila, the mayor of Gjakova, has affirmed that mayors in their fourth year of governance should reflect on transparency and accountability and the steps they have taken in this regard. She has called for the sustainability of applied transparency practices to continue even after local elections in order to keep an open communication with citizens and NGOs.

While Dardan Sejdiu, deputy mayor of the municipality of Prishtina, has emphasized that citizens can be participants in municipal governance only if they are properly and correctly informed about local government policies and decision-making.

Xhemali Haxhimustafa, deputy mayor of the municipality of Rahovec, emphasized that the willingness of the mayor for accountability plays an important role in reforming the municipality's transparency.

The Municipal Transparency Index Reform for 2016 shows that the municipalities of Prishtina and Gjakova constitute the first group of transparent municipalities with 66 percent of the overall assessment, followed by Peja and Gjilani with 51 and 50 percent, followed by Mitrovica with 47 percent, Ferizaj 43 percent and Prizren 39 percent. The municipalities that are not regional centers: Rahovec and Vushtrri with 48 percent, then Malisheva with 43 percent, Suhareka 42 percent, Klina 41 percent, Shtërpça 37 percent, Dragash 31 percent and Mamusha with 26 percent.

Transparency in combating misuse, public procurement, municipal property management, then urban planning and monitoring of urban planning projects still remain important challenges for municipalities.

The indicator groups that are monitored and on which the Index is written on are: The Mayor, Directors and Members of the Assembly; work, organization, functionality of Policy-Making and Decision-making Bodies, Combating misconduct and misuse, European Integration, Accounting and Budget. Then, public procurement contracts, Supply and Grants, Employees in Public Administration and Public Organizations / Institutions, Capital and Non-Capital Assets, Citizen Information and Services, Cooperation with Civil Society, Urban Planning and Urban Projects Monitoring. You can read the full index content in the link: <http://online-transparency.org/indeksi/>

The project "Municipal Transparency Reform Index", has been initiated by EC Ma Ndryshe since May 2015 and has scope in the municipalities of Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Mitrovica, Gjilan, Ferizaj, Gjakova, Suharekë, Rahovec, Malishevë, Dragash, Mamusha, Shtërpçë, Vushtrri and Klina. The project in question aims to assist municipalities in identifying key deficiencies in terms of transparency as well as providing guidance on addressing and overcoming them.

Sincerely,

NGO EC Ma Ndryshe
Rr. Saraçët, Nr. 5 - Prizren
Bulevardi Nënë Tereza, H 30 B1 Nr. 5, Prishtinë
www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771