



**Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC MA NDARYSHE**

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PRESS RELEASE

Municipality of Prizren to review and improve the process of subsidies for culture and youth

On May 16, 2018, the municipality of Prizren published its announcement titled "Directory of Culture, Youth and Sports (DCYS) allocates subsidies for culture and sport", whereby it has announced that this directorate, on the basis of the evaluation of the selected Commission has allocated subsidies with a total of 68,300 euros in culture and youth and at the same time the list of beneficiaries was also published.

Regarding this issue, EC Ma Ndryshe has requested clarifications from the DCYS, where the director has announced that it is a proposal-decision of the Commission addressed to the Mayor, who should make the final decision.

In this situation, EC has decided to address some concerns and recommendations to the Mayor. This institution should take into account the regularity and compliance of the process with the legislation in force in order to avoid any conflict of interest when deciding on the allocation of subsidies for culture.

The first problematic issue in this process is the assignment of members of the Committee for reviewing and evaluating applications, projects of individuals and subjects who have applied for financial support in the field of culture and youth in the municipality of Prizren for 2018.

This is because a member of the Commission was appointed with the Mayor's decision of 6 April 2018. The appointed member is politically engaged as the chief of the Mayor's cabinet. EC recalls that Regulation 04/2017 of the Ministry of Finance on the criteria, standards and procedures for public financing of NGOs in Article 8 paragraph 7 states that "members of the evaluation committee may not be political appointees".

The second issue that deserves attention in this process is that the Committee for reviewing and evaluating applications has proposed subsidizing two NGOs whose members are also part of the Commission in question, even though they were previously nominated as representatives of the group of organizations. Regulation 04/2017 of the Ministry of Finance on the criteria, standards and procedures of public funding of NGOs in Article 8 paragraph 4 states that "in addition to the regular members of the Evaluation Committee from paragraph 3 of this Article, the financial support provider shall provide by a decision a reserve member, who will replace if necessary any appointee of the Evaluation Commission who has a conflict of interest ". Based on the Mayor's Decision of 6 April 2018, it appears that the Evaluation Committee did not have the reserve of members.

The third challenging issue with regard to subsidies for culture and youth is the allocation of funds for Cultural Assosiation "Agimi". In DCYS's reply it is mentioned that these funds will be managed by the management structures of the Assosiation "Agimi" and that this will be monitored by the Municipality through the Commission for overseeing and monitoring the realization of the projects. However, EC reminds the head of the municipality that the process for clarifying the situation in this case is not yet concluded, while a democratic electoral assembly for the election of the governing structures of the Assosiation "Agimi" should be held.

EC concludes that the Mayor's decision of 6 April 2018 on the establishment of the Evaluation Committee did not respect the provisions of the Ministry of Finance Regulation 04/2017 on the criteria, standards and procedures for public funding of NGOs. It also considers that the the proposal-decision of the Evaluation Committee contains elements of conflict of interest.

Therefore, EC recommends the Mayor to implement the provisions of Ministry 04/2017 on the criteria, standards and procedures for public funding of NGOs, so that political appointees are not members of the Evaluation Committee. It is also required to the Mayor to ensure that the Evaluation Committee has a reserve member in order to avoid any conflicts of interest and avoid any doubt about the impartiality of the Commission members .

For these reasons, EC calls on the Mayor to review and improve the process of subsidies for culture and youth, acting in accordance with good governance legislation and practices.

Respectfully,

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