



Non-Governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe
EC Ma Ndryshe”

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PRESS RELEASE

EC publishes the analysis "Cultural heritage: an untold story"

EC Ma Ndryshe today published the analysis "Cultural heritage: an untold story" which aims to review Kosovo's primary and middle school history text books, approved by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo, in order to see how Kosovo's cultural heritage is presented in these textbooks.

From a review of Kosovo's history textbook, it can be seen that cultural heritage in these textbooks is presented in a very limited way. Nothing is said about the importance of cultural heritage and its connection with the formation of identity, or about the impact that cultural diversity can have on the development of tolerance, prevention of hatred, racism and other forms of discrimination which can cause conflict. These textbooks give no explanation of the concept of 'cultural heritage' and it is even not mentioned anywhere.

The textbooks mainly present cultural heritage sites and monuments and these are almost entirely through photographs. The vast majority of sites and monuments presented in these textbooks have an ethnic and political character, and even when they do not, they are still presented in an ethnic and political context. There is no presentation at all of medieval Serbian rule in Kosovo, and as a consequence there is also a lack of presentation of the cultural heritage, mainly of religious buildings, of this period. Likewise, considering that the five centuries of Ottoman rule are presented in these textbooks as a dark period, and there is no mentioning of its cultural heritage. A limited exception to this is in the History 11 and History 12 textbooks for general gymnasium.

Regarding the period under the Yugoslav rule of Tito (1945 - 1990) there are partially presented some of the achievements in the field of education and culture, but none of the buildings/monuments constructed during this period is mentioned. Kosovo is aiming to be a member of UNESCO, while its history textbooks teach its younger generation almost nothing about its cultural heritage.

This analysis is published in three languages, in Albanian, Serbian and English and its author is Shkëlzen Gashi. You can find the entire analysis in the following link: <http://goo.gl/4CICW3>.

Respectfully,

Valon Xhabali, Programme Coordinator

EC Ma Ndryshe

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