



Non - Governmental Organization "Emancipimi Civil Ma  
Ndryshe" EC MA NDRYSHE

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**Big Municipalities with great challenges in governing**

Within the project "Index of the Reform on Municipal Transparency", EC Ma Ndryshe has reviewed the findings of the Auditing Reports on Financial Statement of Prishtina, Prizren, Pejë, Gjakovë, Mitrovicë, Ferizaj and Gjilan Municipalities for 2014.

Findings of the Office of Auditor General (ZAP) for 2014 have concluded that big municipalities in Kosovo are facing serious challenges in governing. The auditor has evaluated that general arrangements of government require strengthening, since there are weaknesses in management of the key systems.

Based on these reports almost in all above mentioned municipalities the control of the planning, collecting and reporting of income process is not analyzed in sustainable way, where the property taxes, building permits and rental income or use of municipal property are seen as the most problematic areas.

At the same time it is emphasized that the control upon a various fields of expenditures require further improvement in order to prevent the possibility of financial loss, weak value of money and ineffective management of projects in municipalities. Weaknesses in this direction were mainly spotted in field of procurement and effective control to ensure qualitative completion of works.

Another concern which is confirmed from the Reports of the Auditor is the high level of collection accounts (unaccounted debts), which have piled up throughout the years, mainly from property taxes, municipal taxes, rents of municipal property, building permits, etc. Continuous increase of these debts according to the Auditor have happened because the municipalities couldn't establish effective mechanisms for their collection neither did they drafted a strategy on actions required for collection of unaccounted debts.

In the meantime the unaccounted debts by the municipalities according to the Auditor reflect a weak management of budgetary activity, since it has been assigned as an obligation despite the fact that the execution of budget is not in hundred percent levels.

The other common denominator of big municipalities is that the majority of them have to improve the quality of internal auditing as well as work in application of different recommendations which are addressed by the external auditor during previous years, in order to eliminate identified weaknesses in all fields.

EC Ma Ndryshe evaluates that the leadership of big municipalities in Kosovo have to carefully read the findings of the Auditor and take necessary measures to address them, in order to offer a good government in interest of the public. While encourages continuity of positive actions in certain fields in municipalities registered by the Auditor.

Taking in account the findings of the Auditor EC Ma Ndryshe recommends that:

- Municipalities positively reflect on findings of ZAP and implement all recommendations of the Auditor;
- The report of the Auditor to be discussed in Municipal Assemblies and members of the MA to exercise a greater pressure on the executive for application of ZAP recommendations;
- To undertake serious actions for improvements of financial management and control in the municipalities in all fields identified by the Auditor;
- In those municipalities where the auditor year after year concludes emphasized weaknesses, MF and MLGA should intervene for application of the Law.

Projektin “Indeksi i Reformës së Transparencës Komunale” EC Ma Ndryshe ka nisur që ta zbatoj nga maji i vitit 2015, falë përkrahjes së Ambasadës së Mbretërisë së Bashkuar në Prishtinë, i cili do të ketë shtrirje në shtatë komnat kryesore të Kosovës, Prishtinë, Prizren, Pejë, Mitrovicë, Gjilan, Ferizaj dhe Gjakovë. Projekti në fjalë ka për qëllim që ti asistoj komnat në identifikimin e mangësive kryesore sa i përket transparencës sikurse edhe të ofroj udhëzime për adresimin dhe tejkalimin e tyre. Indeksi i Transparencës paraqet edhe një përpjekje të strukturuar për të mbështetur komnat e Kosovës në përmbushjen e standardeve të qeverisjes së mirë, të përcaktuara me reformën e qeverisjes lokale dhe agjendën evropiane të Kosovës.

EC Ma Ndryshe has started implementation of the project “Index of the Reform on Municipal Transparency” since May 2015, thanks to the support of the United Kingdom Embassy in Prishtina, it will expand to seven main municipalities in Kosova, Prishtinë, Prizren, Pejë, Mitrovicë, Gjilan, Ferizaj and Gjakovë. The projects aim is to assist municipalities in identification of main deficiencies as far as transparency concern and at the same time offer advices to address and overcome them. The Index of Transparency presents one more structured effort to support the municipalities of Kosova in fulfilling the standards of good governance, set by the reform of the local government and European agenda of Kosovo.

With respect,

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