



Non-Governmental Organization “Emancipimi Civil Ma
Ndryshe”

EC MA NDRYSHE

URBANISM WATCH

Prizren Urbanism

Under Constant Watch

8 September 2015, Prizren

Issue #26

Press Release

“Erasing the Traces – Historical Centers of Kosovo” Report Publication

On Monday, EC Ma Ndryshe released its research report "Erasing the Traces - Historical Sites of Kosovo", aimed at providing a general overview of the protection status of historic city centers in Kosovo.

This report summarizes concrete information on urban development, past of historical centers, documents attempting to define and preserve these spaces, inclusion of a number of objects that are in the MCYS's list of temporary protection and those that are not, however may be considered as part of cultural and collective memory by citizens. The focus of this report are 8 cities: Prishtina, Prizren, Peja, Gjiilan, Mitrovica, Vushtrri and Rahovec.

The report notes that due to the postwar construction chaos, violations of zoning regulations, institutional neglect, lack of coordination between key central and local institutions in the field of cultural heritage and spatial planning, and lack of permanent legal protection, and many other factors, these centers are increasingly suffering irreversible damage and risking to erase the complete collective memory of these cities.

The analysis establishes that urban historic centers in Kosovo are examples of degraded areas, where the historic urban structure was unable to withstand the current requirements of the market economy and private interests, etc.

Therefore, the report concludes that one of the urgent actions to be undertaken by institutions to protect the collective memory of the city, is to put these sites under protection, through the development of documents regulating and outlining measures to be taken for conservation but also the management of these areas, with a sustainable urban development perspective, where by halting the degradation trend, the legacy would support the overall cultural, social and economic development of the above cities.

Recommendations arising from this research point out the need for defining the boundaries of the historic core and setting the protection status, followed by the design and implementation of a conservation plan and finally the design and implementation of a management plan.

The report reiterates that the notion of urban sustainability and "living cities" is characterized by virtue of a unique historic heritage, where growing cities should not jeopardize the continuity of the collective memory of urban areas, rather the preservation of the urban collective memory, thus the preservation of the historic city centers should be an indivisible part of the contemporary conception of city development.

"Erasing the Traces – Historical Centers of Kosovo" Report can be accessed at:
http://ecmandryshe.org/repository/docs/150908124555_EC_Qendrat_Historike.pdf

The report was prepared under the "Urbanism in Prizren under Constant Watch" Project, supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society.

Sincerely,

Valon Xhabali, Coordinator of the
NGO Project *EC Ma Ndryshe*
Rr. Saraçët, Nr. 5 – Prizren &
Bulevardi Nëna Terezë 30B H-I-.5, 10000 Prishtinë
www.ecmandryshe.org & info@ecmandryshe.org
+381 38 224 967 & +381 29 222 771

URBANISM WATCH

Urbanism of Prizren

Under Constant Watch

supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society



Fondacioni i Kosovës për Shoqëri të Hapur
Kosovo Foundation for Open Society
Kosovska Fondacija za Otvoreno Društvo