

Non-governmental Organization Emancipimi Civil Ma Ndryshe  
EC MA NDRYSHE

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Prizren in call for greater cultural activism**

*30 May 2014, Prizren*

The evening of 29 May 2014 (Thursday) in Prizren was discussed about the potential of cultural activism in the city. In this **debate “Festivals as a form of cultural activism”**, organized by EC Ma Ndryshe, gave their take on this issue Erol Bilibani from Dokufest, Leotrim Fishekçiu from Sculp Fest and Xhevdet Doda from the artistic community, while the debate was moderated by Fisnik Minci, journalist of daily paper Koha Ditore. During the forum, panellists and participants deliberated on the cultural events in Prizren and on their potential to influence local policies and foster cultural and urban activism in the city.

One of the chief conclusions of the discussion was the fact that Prizren is a city rich in cultural activities, but with limited cultural activism. Panellists put on view their own experiences in organizing festivals, pointing out the difficulties in educating young generations of cultural activists. Participants of this debate reaffirmed the obstacles of various natures hindering development of their activities. Above all, lack of a local government’s vision for cultural development of the city and the damage of urban fabric by specific interest groups, were considered as the major obstacles for the city’s development. This discussion forum brought forth several recommendations, among which: strengthening the networking of cultural community for driving forward the city’s cultural agenda, use of cultural activities to foster activism, organization of art performances in public spaces, mobilizing citizens for the protection of the Historic Centre of Prizren and strengthening lobbying capacities for promoting local cultural policies.

The discussion Forum “Festivals as a form of cultural activism” is the first in the cycle of five discussion forums that will be organized on a monthly basis in Prizren. These forums are part of the project “Cultural and urban activism in Prizren”, aimed at encouraging societal debate on the role of cultural activism in the city’s urban transformation. The project, basically, is an initiative of cultural and artistic intervention intended to creatively tackle the challenges of urban development and of democratic reform in Prizren. In addition to the discussion forums, in the year 2014, part of this project shall be the following activities: research on the potential of cultural and urban activism in Prizren, artistic interventions in a public space, viral platforms for cultural blogging and regional conferences for exchanging of experiences between cultural activists from the western Balkan countries.

Thank you.

With regards,  
Hajrulla Çeku, Executive director  
NGO EC Ma Ndryshe  
Perandori Dioklician 14 (5<sup>th</sup> floor) Prishtina & Saraqët 5, 20000 Prizren  
038 224 967 & 029 222 771  
[www.ecmandryshe.org](http://www.ecmandryshe.org) & [info@ecmandryshe.org](mailto:info@ecmandryshe.org)

*“This project was funded through a grant of the U.S. Embassy in Pristina. The opinions, findings and conclusions or recommendations expressed herein are those of the Author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of State.”*

---